International Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

The World's Daily Newspaper ** Paris, Thursday, April 25, 1996 No. 35,195

David Chancellder/The Associated Press

YOUNG WARRIORS — A group of Liberian street fighters, known as "The Wrecking Crew" and loyal to the National Patriotic Front, and their 15-year-old commander, Top Rock, center, riding through Monrovia as an uneasy calm returned to Liberia's capital. Page 10.

Palestinians Revoke 'End of Israel' Clauses

Vote to Amend PLO's Charter Clears a Barrier to Statehood

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

GAZA CITY — The Palestinians on Wednesday publicly forswore violence against Israel, putting an end to decades of guerrilla warfare and clearing a major hurdle on their way to statehood.

Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, won a sweeping majority of 504 to 54 in the Palestine National Council in favor of revoking all clauses of the PLO charter that call for the destruction of Israel. There were 14 abstentions.

The Palestine National Council "has decided to amend its charter by annuling all clauses contradicting letters of mutual recognition" between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed in 1993, said the council's president, Selim Zaanun. The council, which functions as the PLO's Parliament, sat in a special closed session late Wednesday to vote on amending the 1968 charter, which commits the PLO to an armed struggle to "liberate all of Palestine."

The session also ordered the council's legal committee "to start drafting a new charter to be put before the PNC's central council at its first meeting after six months," Mr. Zaanun said.

Under the autonomy accords with Israel, the PLO had until May 7 to rid the charter of all references to Israel's destruction.

"We have an agreement and we have fulfilled our part," said a spokesman for Mr. Arafat, Marwan Kanafani. He insisted, however, that "Israel had nothing to do" with the amendment.

The amendment does not specify exactly which clauses will be dropped in the old documents, which committed the PLO to an "armed struggle to liberate all Palestine."

"The Palestinians have chosen the path of peace," Muin Shreim, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the United Nations, said after the vote held in a closed-door session.

Israeli officials hailed the vote as a significant step toward peace. Nissim Zvili, a senior official in Israel's ruling Labor Party, said amending the charter would make it possible to hold negotiations on a final peace agreement on May 4, as scheduled.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres faces May 29 elections and needs a clear signal from the Palestinians in favor of reconciliation in order to win over swing voters who place security over peace with the Arabs.

Mr. Arafat had lashed out at the hardliners, saying that if they voted "no," they would be responsible for another missed opportunity in the Palestinians' bitter history.

Mr. Peres has said he would freeze peacemaking if Mr. Arafat failed to amend the charter by May 7.

In what appeared to be a nod to the Palestinians, the Labor Party also softened its stance on Palestinian statehood. A draft of a new party platform, expected to win overwhelming approval Thursday, no longer contains a clause that says the party opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The vote Wednesday clears the way for Israeli to withdraw troops from parts of Hebron, the last West Bank city still under occupation. *(AP, AFP)*

Differences 'Narrowed' On Lebanon

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SHTURA, Lebanon — Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher said Wednesday that negotiators were drawing nearer to a settlement of the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah guerrillas.

"Although difficult problems remain, we are drawing closer together and some of the gaps have been narrowed," Mr. Christopher said after talks with Prime Minister Rafik Hariri of Lebanon. Mr. Christopher arrived in Lebanon after a delayed meeting with President Hafez Assad in Syria.

As prospects for a resolution to the 14-day conflict appeared to improve, President Bill Clinton told President Elias Hrawi of Lebanon that he hoped a cease-fire was "quite close," and said that the United States was ready to aid victims of the fighting.

But after a hastily arranged meeting with Mr. Clinton in Washington that lasted nearly an hour, Mr. Hrawi said that he had not come to the White House in search of aid, but rather sought political help in stopping the two-week-old conflict in his country.

"I sensed a very sincere wish on the part of the president for peace in the Middle East and our talk confirmed this, but I, like Thomas in the Bible, would like to see actions on the ground," he said.

Asked about prospects for a cease-fire, Mr. Clinton said: "I hope we're quite close. I've gotten some encouraging news that I can't announce now."

"I've learned the hard way to understate rather than overstate where we are," he said. "I think every thinking, feeling person feels this has gone on way too long, though, and needs to stop."

Mr. Christopher is trying to win Syrian and Israeli agreement to a one-page document setting out rules of engagement on the Lebanese-Israeli border.

Syria is involved because it is the dominant military power in Lebanon.

In Damascus, Syrian and American officials tried to put to rest the idea that Mr. Assad had snubbed Mr. Christopher by refusing without explanation to meet with him Tuesday.

The Americans said health problems might have prompted the can-

See MIDEAST, Page 10

Despite Unions, Kohl Will Press Social Cuts

By John Schmid
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — The German government courted conflict with unions and opposition politicians on Wednesday by vowing to press ahead with unpopular plans to cut social entitlements after talks among the parties broke down.

In a meeting in Bonn that lasted until almost midnight Tuesday, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his ministers failed to win union support for the government's package of deregulation and 50 billion Deutsche marks ($33 billion) in spending cuts.

Chancellery Minister Friedrich Bohl said Mr. Kohl would go ahead with a package with two proposals that have angered the unions: cuts in sick pay and laws that make it easier for small companies to fire workers.

"There are some areas which are decided by consensus and other areas which are decided by conflict," Mr. Bohl warned. Economics Minister Günter Rexrodt said the cabinet would continue putting the final touches to the program before voting on it Thursday.

Mr. Kohl expects to reveal the plan Friday when he presents it to Parliament. Among other initiatives, the plan is expected to defer an increase in allowances to taxpayers with children and raise the minimum age for early retirement. A proposal to freeze wages for public sector employees to hold down costs was rejected Wednesday by the OTV public sector union. The government's departure from consensus politics will make it harder to shepherd the austerity measures through Parliament. The opposition Social Democrats have threatened to block many of the proposals in the upper house, which they dominate.

Inability to reduce spending could mean that Germany will fail to meet the debt and deficit criteria to launch Europe's single-currency project. Apart from the pressure to tackle record unemployment, Mr. Kohl's zeal to unify Europe is seen as the driving motivation behind the austerity measures.

See GERMANY, Page 10

Chechen Rebels, Their Leader Dead, Vow to Fight On

By Michael R. Gordon
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — Chechen rebels mourned their fallen leader Wednesday and vowed to carry on the fight against Russian forces for independence.

Following a night of rumors and conflicting reports, senior Chechen military commanders said that they had confirmed that Dzhokar Dudayev, the leader of the Chechen resistance, had been killed in a Russian rocket attack.

Speaking on a television broadcast from his mountain hideout, the rebels announced Mr. Dudayev's death and proclaimed a three-day mourning period.

The death of Mr. Dudayev thrust the spotlight on Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, who will now head the Chechen rebel movement.

A writer, Mr. Yandarbiyev has served as a chief ideologue for the rebels. His new role raised several critical questions.

Would Mr. Yandarbiyev continue to insist on an independent Chechen state or take a more flexible stance to end the war, which has killed more than 35,000?

Would the departure of Mr. Dudayev lead to a splintering of the resistance?

And would the Russians respond to the new situation by trying to press the fight or seek a diplomatic solution?

Sergei A. Kovalev, the Russian human rights advocate, depicted Mr. Yandarbiyev as a hard-liner who was determined to fight on.

"It will be difficult to negotiate with Yandarbiyev," Mr. Kovalev told the Itar-Tass news agency. "This politician tries to be in the shade, but his statements are the most extreme."

Mr. Kovalev said that Chechen military leaders such as Aslan Maskhadov, the chief of staff, appeared to be more flexible and pragmatic than Mr. Yandarbiyev.

Zenon Kuchciak, the deputy chief of the Grozny mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, also said that Mr. Yandarbiyev's elevation would be unlikely to signal a change in policy.

"Since he has been close to Dudayev in the last couple of years one should not expect any special deviations," Mr.

See REBEL, Page 10

Japanese Guru Goes to Trial

Cult Chief Faces Hanging if Convicted of Subway Attack

By Kevin Sullivan
Washington Post Service

TOKYO — As the trial of the guru of the Aum Shinrikyo sect opened Wednesday, prosecutors read aloud the names, one by one, of the 3,796 people who were injured last year in the nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subways. The widow of one of the 11 people who died, a station master who pulled a poison gas container from a train, sobbed quietly in the courtroom.

After the solemn six-hour recitation, the accused mastermind of the attack, Shoko Asahara, entered no plea on the first day of his trial. Instead, the bearded guru, who claims to be Christ, gave a speech to the court about "absolute truth, absolute freedom and absolute happiness."

"I pity those who do not know the truth," he said in a soft, high voice. "I have no concern about things like lack of freedom, and pain."

Mr. Asahara, who faces death by hanging if convicted, stood before the four-judge panel considering his case wearing a baggy blue prison uniform.

The judges rejected his request that he be allowed to wear a white religious robe, signifying his leadership of the Aum. Mr. Asahara, who once presided over an empire worth more than $1 billion and rode around in a Rolls-Royce, was led into the courtroom by a rope around his waist, wearing handcuffs.

In his first public comment since the March 1995 subway attack, Mr. Asahara rejected his given name, Chizuo Matsumoto, and insisted on being called Asahara, the name recognized by his followers, who once numbered more than 10,000. Asked to answer to Mr. Matsumoto, he said: "I abandoned that name." Asked his address, he said: "I don't remember." And asked to make his plea to murder charges, he told the judge: "I won't speak."

Mr. Asahara, 41, is charged with 17

See TRIAL, Page 10

Newsstand Prices

Andorra	10.00 FF	Lebanon	Lt. 3,000
Antilles	12.50 FF	Morocco	14 Dh
Cameroon	1,600 CFA	Qatar	10.00 Rials
Egypt	£E 5	Réunion	12.50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10.00 R.
Gabon	1100 CFA	Senegal	1,100 CFA
Greece	350 Dr.	Spain	225 PTAS
Italy	2,800 Lire	Tunisia	1,250 Din
Ivory Coast	1,250 CFA	U.A.E.	10.00 Dirh
Jordan	1,250 JD	U.S. Mil. (Eur.)	$1.20

Dow Jones	Trib Index
Down 34.69	Down 0.04%
5563.90	136.60

The Dollar

New York	Wed. close	previous close
DM	1.5202	1.522
Pound	1.5159	1.5165
Yen	106.55	106.705
FF	5.1365	5.141

International Classified Page 4.

Czech Republic, Sponsored Section Pages 11-12.

Will Burgess/Reuters

YELTSIN IN CHINA — President Boris N. Yeltsin of Russia reviewing a Chinese guard at the start of his visit to improve relations. Page 4.

AGENDA

Britain Offers to Kill 40,000 Cows

PAGE TWO
France Reduces Nuclear Arsenal

THE AMERICAS Page 3.
Clinton Catches Dole on Budget

ASIA Page 4.
Annoying Friends, Beijing-Style

EUROPE Page 5.
Spain Readies New Government

To Our Readers

Because of labor issues, the International Herald Tribune was not printed in Toulouse and Marseille on Wednesday. We regret the inconvenience to readers.

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain offered on Wednesday to slaughter up to 40,000 cows in a bid to speed up elimination of "mad cow" disease from British herds.

Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg's announcement followed pressure from the European Union for a detailed proposal that could help to end a worldwide ban on British beef.

"This is a sensible and constructive move, which I believe should be seen as a positive step forward," he said after sending the plan to the EU agriculture commissioner, Franz Fischler. Mr. Hogg said the plan would involve tracing all cases of mad cow disease back to the herd of origin. This, he said, could reduce the incidence of the disease by 15 to 30 percent.

Earlier article, Page 6.

For Europeans, American Retailers Fill the Gap

By John Tagliabue
New York Times Service

LONDON — For Christie Wright, shopping at the Gap is not really about buying T-shirts or jeans, though she likes to talk about getting "good quality for relatively cheap prices." It's about her 10-year-old daughter, Charlotte, growing up, watching Gap advertisements on MTV, and getting a dose of America and its styles, all while shopping near home on Oxford Street.

So these days Mrs. Wright bypasses the nearby Stefanel boutique and ventures into the Gap.

"It appeals to kids," Mrs. Wright said, as she left the Gap one recent morning, laden with purchases. But not just "kids." In addition to spending £60 (about $90) on Charlotte, Mrs. Wright paid as much for T-shirts, jeans and other clothes for herself.

The Wrights are hardly alone in being smitten by American styles. After years of seeing American fashions on television or on favorite rock and movie stars, Europeans have become hooked on the casual American look.

So over the last decade, American retailers have moved into Britain and, increasingly, are taking the leap to the Continent.

As their presence approaches critical mass, the American marketers are exporting not just a fashion sensibility but ways of doing business that are beginning to transform merchandising in Europe just as they have in the United States.

Specialty chains and outlet stores, quick to put goods on sale and to seed racks with trendy merchandise, are supplanting small independent retailers, whose inefficiencies and high prices get much of the blame for stagnating consumption on the Continent.

Nowhere are the trends more apparent than in clothing. Gap Inc., which entered Britain in 1987, now has 70 stores in three European countries, and is quickly opening more in France and Germany. Esprit de Corp., the San Francisco clothing maker, has 134 European stores, plus many Esprit sections in department stores. Levi Strauss, with 278 stores in Western Europe, is plunging into the formerly Communist East. The Foot Locker unit of Woolworth Corp., which hit Germany in 1987, now has 218 European locations and plans a big expansion.

But clothes are not all that America is hawking

See RETAIL, Page 10

Main Base Closing / **For France, a Military-Political Challenge**

Downsizing the Nuclear Arsenal

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

APT, France — This corner of Provence is what people make of it — a harsh, heroic upland of olive trees, honey and lavender, or a glossy setting for the getaway set's ancient villas and new pools, or a base for nuclear missiles: 18 of them, sitting under giant manhole covers marked by barbed wire on the scrubby Plateau d'Albion above this market town in the Luberon Valley.

The underground base, carved out in the 1960s, is a vast complex tending S-3 ballistic missiles, long the backbone of France's nuclear deterrent.

Train tunnels burrow through the volcanic rock with steel doors every few hundred yards to cut off incoming blast.

The two-man firing stations, mini-fortresses mounted on colossal shock-absorbers, each contain a pair of launch switches too far apart for one man to turn both keys simultaneously and trigger a launch.

By next year, the base will be a husk. Already, technicians are dismounting the warheads to salvage their plutonium. In Apt, protests are raging against plans for a helicopter base that will be noisy compared to the missiles.

The decommissioning of the missile field is one of the first tangible results of the downsized nuclear posture announced by President Jacques Chirac after the completion of France's nuclear tests in the South Pacific early this year. Now France — like the United States and Britain — is grappling with the problem of reshaping its nuclear arsenal so that it can cope with military threats while maintaining public support for the program.

It promises to be a tougher challenge, in the long run, than the worldwide furor over the Pacific nuclear testing. That episode never threatened major French interests, but nuclear politics go to the heart of France's relations with its closest allies: the United States and Britain, its nuclear partners, and Germany, a virtual nuclear power. France's plans offer interesting insights because it is a middle-size power. Unable to afford an arsenal like America's, the French military establishment has to hope that nuclear arms may be a partial answer to such possible threats as a remilitarized Russia or signs that France was being targeted with weapons of mass destruction by a hostile government perhaps working through a terrorist group.

France's nuclear arsenal — expected to stabilize at around 500 warheads, less than a quarter of the U.S. stockpile — is seen in Paris as offering not only military clout but also political prestige, so most French leaders want to keep the missiles. A cabinet minister says, "It's like life insurance."

And, like insurance, the new French nuclear policy is meant to be unobtrusive and cheap.

Money will be saved by dismantling the S-3 missiles rather than installing more modern systems: They had become a "tethered goat" — strategists' jargon to mean they would have to be knocked out first if a nuclear power wanted to attack France. Theoretically, this guaranteed French retaliation and established deterrence during the Cold War.

Such elaborate strategic calculus does not apply against smaller nuclear threats, the kind that Western democracies are likely to face. But France believes nuclear weapons will remain central to the European balance of power and it intends to modernize its 16-missile strategic submarines.It also intends to arm its new Rafale fighter-bomber, along with the Mirage 2000, with nuclear-tipped missiles that pilots can fire from long distance, partly thanks to spy satellites France is putting in orbit.

Politically, this missile fits French ideas about "European dissuasion," the idea being that a nuclear-armed plane could quickly fly to a trouble spot to help a threatened ally. But French offers of nuclear solidarity still engender concern, even suspicion about France's ambition, among many officials in Bonn, London and Washington.

This is a challenge for Mr. Chirac as he seeks to bring France out of Gaullist isolation. Just as he has tried to allay international criticism by signing up for a test ban treaty, he sought to reassure his allies by returning to NATO, pursuing talks on nuclear cooperation with London and offering Bonn a voice in framing French nuclear policy.

The quickest approach would seem to be NATO, which has a forum called the Nuclear Planning Group to discuss U.S. and British nuclear policy: If France joined, it would help convince allies that Paris wants to be transparent about its nuclear intentions.

So far, France has declined, apparently not just because Paris is waiting to see the outcome of earlier overtures but also because it does not want to go to NATO seeking nuclear solidarity and discover the opposite, a Chirac aide says.

Clearly, the Clinton administration has strong nuclear allergies, and Britain has starting paring its own nuclear profile drastically.

To France's disappointment, Britain has quietly decided to let its airborne nuclear deterrent disappear with age, according to French sources, who said that London cannot afford to pursue plans for a French-British missile.

Instead, Britain will rely entirely on its U.S.-made Trident submarines as a weapon of ultimate deterrence and, in a new development, also as a way of delivering even a single missile on target in a crisis.

These British moves to make their nuclear program less obtrusive and cheaper mean that France would be more exposed if — a nightmare scenario in Paris — President Bill Clinton ever chose to reduce further the U.S. nuclear role in Europe.

"I worry that something will surface in the NATO enlargement debate if the Clinton administration wants to reassure Congress by watering down the nuclear risk," a French Defense Ministry planner said.

Specifically, French officials fear that Mr. Clinton might seek to lessen the political importance of U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe — for example, by pledging not to use nuclear weapons in Europe unless an opponent used them first.

Technically, this policy switch sounds innocuous given the state of the Russian Army — and it would fit U.S. efforts to play down the importance of nuclear weapons as part of its anti-proliferation campaign.

But politically, any hint of reduced U.S. nuclear involvement would be premature for French purposes. Officials in Paris concede that neighboring countries are far from comfortable with the idea of relying on French nuclear weapons without a U.S. guarantee.

Germany, they say, would plunge into a defense debate that could split the country between pacifists and proponents of a nuclear weapon.

Encouragement for French nuclear ambitions, and stress on the need for Western nuclear cohesion, came recently from Henry A. Kissinger, the former secretary of state, in a talk to policymakers in Paris arranged by Pierre Lellouche, a member of Parliament and Chirac defense adviser.

Mr. Kissinger urged the Clinton administration not to press its nuclear allies for cutbacks, even as an example of nonproliferation.

Nuclear-armed allies are needed, Mr. Kissinger said, because it was "not in the American interest to be the country that alone had the responsibility for nuclear decisions because that would lead to the rise of neutralism in Europe and overstretch American capacity to react globally."

In maintaining a nuclear role, France will face problems in designing weapons now that it has renounced testing. No commander wants to fire an untried weapon, especially a nuclear warhead.

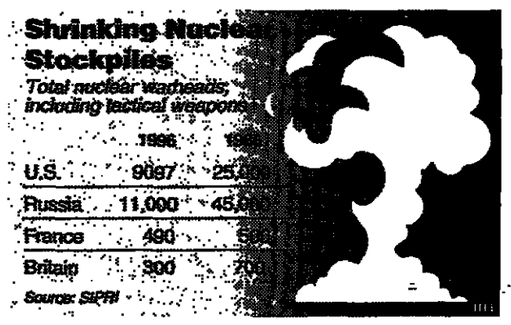
But France's nuclear weapons can be modernized — for example, to allow them to burrow through protective material before exploding — by laser-aided simulation, an expensive process for which France would like U.S. help.

The last tests did give France a new warhead, known as TNN. Big and bulky, it is said to be easy to maintain, and will gradually be adopted on submarines and planes. The weapon will be increasingly important, French officials say, once British bombs are scrapped and the French airborne missiles become, along with the U.S. warheads stockpiled in Europe, the only Western nuclear weapons left on the continent.

If the overall rationale sounds vague, it is meant to. Some French strategists say it is time the country jettisoned its elaborate doctrines. More elegantly, Jean-Louis Gergorin, a former policymaker, says that dispensing with formal theory is beneficial because uncertainty about France's intentions to use nuclear weapons keeps a potential foe guessing and so enhances their deterrent effect.

Photo Aerospatiale

Rising through the smoke, a French S-3 missile is tested.



COMING UP
Boris N. Yeltsin, trying to win re-election as president of Russia, has thrown the spotlight on his family and particularly on his wife, Naina.

U.S. and U.K. Challenging Plan to Allow Iraqi Oil Sales

By Paul Lewis
New York Times Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York — The United States and Britain have announced that they want extensive changes in a draft plan to allow Iraq to sell up to $2 billion worth of oil every six months to buy food and medicine for its suffering civilians.

They portray the tightening of the proposal as a way to prevent Baghdad from "manipulating" the accord to weaken the sanctions imposed by the Security Council after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq has bitterly criticized the proposed changes, saying that the United States and Britain had interfered just as it was close to an agreement with Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali that would have relieved much of the poverty and suffering that six years of sanctions have inflicted on the country.

Diplomats said that Iraq's president, Saddam Hussein, who rejected two earlier offers as an insult to his country's sovereignty, must now decide whether to continue negotiating on the revised proposal or break off talks altogether.

[The United Nations and Iraq announced the suspension Wednesday of oil-for-food talks after failing to reach an accord, Agence France-Press reported from New York, quoting a UN spokesman.]

A statement issued by the U.S. Mission to the United Nations said that both countries have made proposals to insure that the plan will have the intended effect.

The statement said the goal was to prevent Baghdad from manipulating the oil sales agreement "for its own ends."

While officials involved praised the secretary-general's performance in negotiations so far, they made clear that the United States and Britain see the agreement he is proposing as one that Mr. Hussein might exploit to his own advantage.

Specifically, these officials said that the resolution provides for $150 million out of every $1 billion worth of oil sold to be used by the United Nations to pay for its relief program in three predominantly Kurdish northern provinces that have broken away from Baghdad and are under the military protection of the Gulf War allies.

As a result, the United States and Britain do not want the agreement to give Baghdad any say in which goods are purchased for the north or how they are distributed.

New Evidence of Smoking's Fallout

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It may not be seen or smelled, but nicotine wafted into the air from burning cigarettes finds its way into the lungs of just about everybody, smokers and nonsmokers alike, according to a study published Wednesday.

Scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that blood samples collected around the country show an almost universal exposure to tobacco smoke, even among people who never smoke and do not work or live around people who do.

Dr. James L. Pirkle, head of the research team, said that 87.9 percent of nonsmokers among the 10,642 people tested had the telltale blood chemistry of exposure to tobacco smoke.

Calling the results unexpected, Dr. Pirkle said the study suggested that exposure to environmental tobacco smoke was widespread. "You can definitely have a significant exposure even if you can't see it or smell it," he said.

The research, published Wednesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association, involved people ages 4 and older at 81 sites in 26 states. It combined blood samples, physical exams and questionnaires. Study data will be used to track changes in exposure to environmental tobacco smoke and could help to evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to separate smokers and nonsmokers in restaurants and offices, Dr. Pirkle said.

He said that exposure to tobacco smoke was based on the presence of cotinine, a metabolic residue from the processing of inhaled nicotine. There is virtually no other source for such a chemical for nonusers of tobacco except inhaled tobacco smoke, he said. Much of the exposure comes from smoke that escapes from a cigarette as it burns, Dr. Pirkle said. This smoke, he said, has 20 to 30 times the carcinogens as smoke inhaled through a cigarette filter.

Hague Will Free Dying Bosnian Serb

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

THE HAGUE — The Yugoslav war crimes tribunal, citing humanitarian reasons, ordered the release Wednesday of a senior Serbian general who is dying of cancer.

The provisional release of General Djordje Djukic is almost certain to deprive the tribunal of what might have been its highest-profile trial of crimes committed during the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The general is charged with directing the artillery barrage of Sarajevo from 1992 to 1995 in which 10,000 people are believed to have died.

The court rejected a prosecution request to withdraw its indictment against General Djukic, 62, because of his rapidly deteriorating health. The general has pancreatic cancer, and Dutch doctors have given him only weeks to live.

The three-judge panel said that the charges should be maintained.

"The trial chamber has upheld the indictment against General Djukic, but orders provisional release solely on humanitarian grounds," Judge Claude Jorda said.

"The judges are satisfied that General Djukic's medical condition is incompatible with any form of detention," the judge said, adding: "It orders that he be permitted to leave the Netherlands in order to join his family."

General Djukic, a top deputy to the Bosnian Serbian military commander, General Ratko Mladic, is also thought to have been responsible for the secret flow of supplies from Serbia to rebel Serbs in Bosnia.

He and one of his officers were captured by Bosnian government forces on Jan. 30 and later transferred to the tribunal's custody at Scheveningen jail near The Hague. He pleaded not guilty in March to war crimes.

(AP, Reuters)

TRAVEL UPDATE

Cruise Lines Sued on Port Charges

MIAMI (AP) — Cruise ship passengers have filed lawsuits accusing seven major cruise lines of inflating port charges, which increase advertised fares by at least $100 to $150.

The lawsuits contend that the cruise lines collect $250 million a year in port charges, a blanket term intended to cover the many charges imposed by federal, state and foreign governments. "They are using this as a revenue source," said a plaintiffs' lawyer.

Defendants are Carnival Cruise Lines, Royal Caribbean Cruises, Celebrity Cruises, Kloster Cruise Ltd.'s Norwegian Cruise Line, Holland America Line, Princess Cruises and Renaissance Cruises.

EU Breakthrough on Seat Belts

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — After years of wrangling, the European Union has agreed that new tourist buses and minibuses registered in the bloc will have to fit seat belts for all passengers, starting in 1999.

The decision was made Tuesday after EU officials agreed on phase-in dates, ending the recriminations that have followed a succession of fatal crashes on EU roads in recent years.

More Foreign Flights to China

BEIJING (AFP) — Several foreign airlines are expanding their services to China, the official Xinhua press agency said Wednesday.

The airlines are Northwest, Singapore Airlines, KLM, Qantas and Austrian Airlines.

The BBC World Service may have to stop broadcasts to areas of sub-Saharan Africa, Central Europe and Brazil this year because of funding cuts, officials said. *(Reuters)*

A 24-hour strike by public transport workers in Lyon disrupted subway and bus services Wednesday, French unions said. The strike was over driver security. *(Reuters)*

Fire Regulations Ignored At Düsseldorf Airport

Reuters

DUSSELDORF, Germany — German authorities said Wednesday that Düsseldorf airport did not conform to fire protection regulations when a blaze there killed 16 people earlier this month.

Premier Johannes Rau of North-Rhine-Westphalia State said flammable material had been used in false ceilings in the passenger terminals against safety rules.

All the fatalities in the April 11 tragedy were caused by toxic fumes. Scores of people had to be treated at hospitals for the effects of the fumes.

Investigators believe welders may have ignited a false ceiling containing electrical wiring in the main terminal at Germany's second-biggest airport. Plastic-covered cables began to smolder, emitting fumes that were sucked through the building in ventilation shafts.

The Elizabeth
A Member of Far East Organization
A stylish boutique hotel in Orchard Road, Singapore.
For Reservations
Fax : (65) 7323866 or call

Keep up with the Jones' from a phone booth in Gdansk.

Sprint. The way to get anything done from anywhere.

To call, just dial the access number for the country you're visiting. In no time at all, you'll be connected to an English-speaking Sprint Operator or an automated voice prompt. It's that simple.

COUNTRIES	ACCESS NUMBERS	COUNTRIES	ACCESS NUMBERS	COUNTRIES	ACCESS NUMBERS	COUNTRIES	ACCESS NUMBERS
American Samoa	633-1000	Denmark +	800-1-0877	Korea (KT) ◆◆	009-16	San Marino +	172-1877
Antigua Ω (dedicated phones)	*#*+0	Dominican Republic ▲	1-800-751-7877	Korea ‡	550-POINE	Saudi Arabia	1800-15
Antigua Ω*#(pay phones)	1-800-366-4663	Ecuador	999-171	Liechtenstein +	155-9777	Singapore +	8000-177-177
Argentina	001-800-777-1111	Egypt (Cairo) +	356-4777	Lithuania	8◆197	Slovak Republic +	0042-087-187
Armenia	8-10-155	El Salvador	800-1776	Luxembourg	0800-0115	South Africa +	0-800-99-0001
Aruba Ω	800-8870	Fiji Islands	004-890-100-3	Macao	0800-121	Spain	900-99-0013
Australia (Optus) +	1-800-5511-10	Finland +	9800-1-0284	Malaysia +	800-0016	Sweden +	020-799-011
Australia (Telstra) +	1-800-881-877	France +	19◆0087	Mexico +	95-800-877-8000	Switzerland +	155-9777
Austria +	022-903-014	Germany +	0130-0013	Monaco +	19◆0087	Syrian Arab Republic +*	0888
Bahamas +	1-800-389-2111	Greece +	008-001-411	Netherlands Antilles *		Taiwan	0080-14-0877
Bahrain	800-777	Guam	950-1366	(Curacao & Bonaire) +	001-800-745-1111	Thailand	001-999-13-877
Barbados *	1-800-534-0042	Guatemala +	195	Netherlands +	06-022-9119	Turkey +	00-800-1-4477
Belgium +	0800-10014	Honduras ▲	121	New Zealand	000-999	Ukraine	8-100-15
Belize (hotels)	556	Hong Kong	800-1877	Nicaragua (Managua)	171	U.S. Virgin Islands	1-800-877-8000
Belize (all other) ◇	812	Hungary +	00◆800-01-877	Norway +	800-19877	U.S.A.	1-800-877-8000
Bermuda *	1-800-623-0877	Iceland ++	800-9003	Panama	115	United Arab Emirates +	800-131
Bolivia	0800-3333	India +	000-127	Peru	176	United Kingdom (BT)	0800-89-0877
Brazil	000-8016	Indonesia (Indosat)	001-801-15	Philippines (ETPI stations only) ◇	105-01	United Kingdom (Mercury)	0500-89-0877
British Virgin Islands	1-800-877-8000	Indonesia (Satellindo)	008-801-15	Philippines (PhilCom) ▲	102-611	Uruguay	000417
Bulgaria ▲	00-800-1010	Ireland +	1-80022-55-2001	Philippines (PLDT)	105-16	Vatican City +	172-1877
Canada	1-800-877-8000	Israel +	177-102-2727	Poland +	00-800-111-3115	Venezuela	800-1111-0
Cayman Islands	1-800-366-4663	Italy +	172-1877	Portugal +	05017-1-877	Vietnam (calling centers)	1201-1111
Chile	00◆0317	Jamaica (hotels)	875	Puerto Rico	1-800-877-8000		
China +	108-13	Jamaica (airports/docks)	5	Romania +	01-800-0877		
Colombia	980-130-010	Japan (IDC) +	0066-55-877	Russia (Moscow) +	155-6133		
Costa Rica +	0800-0013-0123	Japan (KDD) +	0039-131	Russia (all other) +	8095-155-6133		
Croatia +	99-385-0113	Jordan	18-800-777	St. Lucia *	1-800-277-7468		
Cyprus *	080-900-01	Kenya *	0800-12	Saipan (Tinian and Rota) +	1-235-0333		
Czech Republic +	0042-087-187	Korea (Dacom) +	0039-13	Saipan (all other)	235-0333		

Certain restrictions apply where country-to-country calling is available. Listing subject to change. For Customer Service call the Sprint Access Number of the country you're in or 1-800-877-4646 while in the U.S. Non-bolded countries allow calls to the U.S., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam only. Bold denotes country-to-country calling availability. Calls to Singapore and Thailand not allowed. ◆ Wait for second tone. + Public phones may require coin or card. ▲ Not available from pay phones. ◆◆ From pay phones, push red button, wait for tone, then dial "0268". ◇ Available only from specially-marked phones. ‡ Available at military phones only. Ω Available from airports/seaports only. * Also allows calls to Canada. © 1996 Sprint

Sprint.

Imprimé par Offprint, 73 rue de l'Evangile, 75018 Paris.

هكذا من الأهرام

THE AMERICAS

Clinton Catches Dole Off-Guard on Budget

By Jerry Gray
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Pushing the fight over a balanced budget to the front of this fall's presidential race, Senator Bob Dole, the presumptive Republican candidate, casually suggested that he and President Bill Clinton negotiate the issue one-on-one.

"The president accepts," Leon E. Panetta, the White House chief of staff, said Tuesday. "We are prepared to meet tomorrow."

Mr. Dole, seemingly caught off-guard by the nearly instant White House response, said, "We'll see how it looks."

If head-to-head negotiations between Mr. Clinton and Mr. Dole were to be held, they would change the dynamics of a political fight that has been waged since Republicans took control of Congress 15 months ago. They would make the House speaker, Newt Gingrich, and conservatives in the House sideline players on an issue that is at the heart of their "Republican revolution."

But the episode seems less likely to lead to serious budget talks than to give an early preview of the kind of political gamesmanship that lies ahead between Mr. Clinton and Mr. Dole in the six months before the general election. Never before have the parties had candidates who held such powerful offices — a sitting president and a sitting majority leader — and some Republicans have begun to suggest privately that Mr. Dole should reconsider his commitment to keeping his leadership post.

The legislation at issue is a $160 billion spending bill that would cover dozens of federal departments and agencies whose budgets for the current fiscal year have yet to be approved. Agencies have been operating under temporary spending measures, the latest of which expires Thursday.

It was Mr. Clinton who put the ball into play Tuesday during a Rose Garden ceremony honoring teachers. He took the occasion to press the Republicans over the question of a balanced budget, an issue that White House aides said they would make a common theme in coming days.

"It's been over three months now since the negotiations over how to balance the budget were suspended," Mr. Clinton said. "But the time for waiting is now over. Now is the moment to finish the job and work toward a balanced budget."

"My door is open and it's time to get the job done," Mr. Clinton continued, suggesting that "a mainstream coalition" of members of Congress meet to negotiate a deal.

Mr. Dole, asked late Tuesday about the president's comments, immediately panned the idea.

"You mean more people bargaining?" he said. "We need fewer. How about the two candidates?"

Within minutes, the White House leaped on the opening, telephoning The New York Times to react to a news service report of Mr. Dole's comments. That left Mr. Dole at least temporarily looking for a move to counter that of the Clinton gambit.

"They didn't call our bluff, they called The New York Times," he said when asked by a reporter whether he would actually pursue one-on-one talks with the president.

When pressed, he replied: "We'll see how it looks."

Sensing disarray among congressional Republicans over the budget, the White House has adopted an increasingly hard line.

With Republicans signaling a willingness to yield considerable political ground to the administration, congressional appropriators and White House officials had resumed negotiations on a deal that would close the books on the overdue 1996 federal budget.

Senior officials on both sides spoke optimistically in public that they would reach an agreement on the deal or at least on another temporary spending bill before the current stopgap spending bill, the 12th in the last six months, expires.

White House officials held firm during closed-door meetings Tuesday, pressing the Republicans to abandon or compromise on a string of budget provisions.

POLITICAL

Clinton Names Campaign Chief

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton on Wednesday named Peter S. Knight, a lawyer and longtime aide to Vice President Al Gore, to head the day-to-day operations of their re-election campaign.

Mr. Knight was Mr. Gore's chief aide when he was a Tennessee congressman and senator. In 1988, Mr. Knight was finance director of Mr. Gore's presidential campaign and was chairman of his vice-presidential effort in 1992. The president has yet to settle on a choice for the more ceremonial post of campaign chairman. *(NYT)*

Health Bill: Still Uphill Battle

WASHINGTON — The Senate has unanimously adopted milestone legislation to make it easier for millions of Americans to retain their health coverage even after developing a serious illness or leaving a job.

But the bill's easy passage Tuesday belied the uphill battle it faces in a Senate-House conference committee that must iron out key differences between it and a similar measure adopted last month by the House.

Both bills are now laden with controversial elements that have incited strong opposition from powerful stakeholders in the nation's $1 trillion-a-year health care industry, ranging from trial lawyers and doctors to large employers and insurance companies. *(LAT)*

Dole Steps Up Judicial Attack

WASHINGTON — Senator Bob Dole is lining up some big names in law enforcement — not all of them Republicans — to back his assault on President Bill Clinton's judicial appointments and record on crime.

Mr. Dole's presidential campaign circulated testimonials on Tuesday from three former Republican attorneys general, Dick Thornburgh, Edwin Meese and William Barr. A fourth statement from Griffin Bell, who was a federal appeals judge before becoming attorney general in the Democratic administration of President Jimmy Carter, said Mr. Dole had "hit the mark" in a series of recent speeches critical of Mr. Clinton's judicial picks.

It is all part of a Dole campaign drive to paint Mr. Clinton as soft on crime for appointing federal judges who exercise what he termed "stealth liberalism" from the bench. *(AP)*

Spy Budget's 'Bottom Line'

WASHINGTON — What had once been one of the government's best-kept secrets, the annual budget of the CIA and other spy agencies, would no longer be so secret under a proposal announced by the White House.

The Clinton administration said Tuesday that beginning this year it would ask Congress to make public an overall "bottom line" figure for the budget of American intelligence agencies, a figure now widely estimated at $24 billion to $30 billion a year.

But when the budget figure is made public by Congress there will apparently be no breakdown of the costs by agency or activity. *(NYT)*

Quote/Unquote

Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum, Republican of Kansas, on the Senate passage of a health insurance bill: "The controversy is not over, even though we put on a good face." *(WP)*

A New Point of View in Subway Slaying

By Malcolm Gladwell
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — A Bronx jury's decision to award $43 million in damages to one of the four black youths shot by Bernhard H. Goetz was a stunning reversal for the so-called subway vigilante acquitted of attempted murder nine years ago in the same shooting.

Mr. Goetz became a national symbol of urban rage and frustration when he opened fire in a New York City subway car 12 years ago. But this time around — in a civil as opposed to a criminal trial, before a largely black jury instead of a largely white one and at a time when crime here is on the downswing as opposed to the upswing — the six-member jury swiftly ruled against Mr. Goetz.

It found Tuesday that Mr. Goetz acted "recklessly" and "outrageously" in his attack on Darrell Cabey, now 30, who was left brain-damaged and paralyzed from the chest down by one of Mr. Goetz's bullets.

The verdict itself is largely symbolic, since Mr. Goetz is unlikely to be able to pay more than a token amount of the $18 million in compensatory damages and $25 million in punitive damages the jury ordered. Mr. Goetz is a self-employed electronics consultant and, according to court papers, makes less than $20,000 a year. Under New York State law, the court can attach, or garnish, no more than 10 percent of his wages over the next 20 years.

The Goetz case arose from an incident on a Manhattan express train in December 1984. Shortly after boarding the train, Mr. Goetz was confronted by four black teenagers, who asked him for $5. They said later they were panhandling. He said he thought he was about to be mugged. He drew an unlicensed handgun, shooting all four.

Mr. Cabey filed a civil suit after Mr. Goetz was acquitted of the attempted murder charges in 1987. Mr. Goetz was convicted of illegally possessing a gun, and he served just over eight months for that offense.

Although the civil case retraced many of the same steps as the previous trial, it took a very different turn. In 1987, the rising levels of crime and the increasing decrepitude of the subway system made Mr. Goetz a sympathetic figure.

But in a city where crime has dropped markedly in recent years, and where the chaotic, graffiti-ridden subway system is all but a memory, Mr. Goetz was a much less sympathetic figure this time around.

Mr. Cabey's lawyer also pounded home the racial dimensions of the attack, quoting racist statements Mr. Goetz made on the witness stand and getting Mr. Goetz to concede that he had once that Mr. Cabey's mother should have "had an abortion."

Peter Morgan/Reuters

Bernhard Goetz arriving at the Bronx courthouse.

Democrats Hopeful on Whitewater

By R. H. Melton and Susan Schmidt
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — With the final phase of the Senate Whitewater hearings underway, the Clinton White House and congressional Democrats are newly optimistic about their ability to contain damage from the inquiry.

Though Democrats are keenly aware of the political risks for them in the Senate probe — and the separate investigation by the independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr — they are, for once, on a sustained offensive.

They see recent articles describing the Whitewater inquiries as a partisan witch hunt and questioning Mr. Starr's integrity as a sign that the press is listening to them. "The tenor of the conversation has changed," said Ann Lewis, chief spokesman for the Clinton-Gore campaign. "Where there was a lot of intensity among Republicans, I find energy and intensity has spread throughout the Democratic side."

Certainly, the White House still has much to be anxious about at this stage of the lengthy investigations that center on Whitewater, a failed real estate venture in Arkansas before Bill Clinton became president.

In Little Rock, the Clintons' former business partners, James B. and Susan McDougal, and Governor Jim Guy Tucker are on trial, accused of bank fraud and conspiracy.

The president's political advisers are watching the trial carefully in the belief, they say, that the outcome will either effectively shut down Mr. Starr's inquiry or give it dangerous new momentum. The president has been subpoenaed as a defense witness by the McDougals and is scheduled to give videotaped testimony Sunday.

The White House must also contend with Mr. Starr's newly authorized investigation of whether White House aides covered up Mrs. Clinton's role in the firing of travel office employees. Mr. Starr announced Tuesday that he had hired Roger Adelman, a well-known former federal prosecutor, as a senior counsel to handle the travel office investigation. Friends of Mr. Adelman said his hiring showed that Mr. Starr considers this line of inquiry to be significant.

But for the moment, the White House, the Democratic National Committee and the re-election campaign are encouraged at what they see as the news media's new willingness to question whether the Whitewater controversy is overblown and whether Mr. Starr's outside legal work has created ethical conflicts of interest.

A series of articles in the last month have questioned Mr. Starr's objectivity and independenceA White House once wary of publicly criticizing investigators is talking up stories about Mr. Starr even before they appear and eagerly disseminating recent critical stories that have appeared in the Nation, New York Observer and The New Yorker.

James carville, a longtime Clinton adviser, is openly attacking Mr. Starr in print as a Republican partisan hostile to the president.

Mr. Starr, a prominent Republican and $1 million a year private litigator, has a stable of blue-chip clients, some of whom are major donors to Republican causes. One of them is the tobacco company Brown & Williamson, which is being sued by people who claim they were hurt by tobacco firms. Critics have pointed out that Mr. Clinton has spoken out against big tobacco, and the Justice Department is investigating allegations of criminal wrongdoing by tobacco companies.

If Mr. Starr were to step down as a result of the criticism, the Whitewater investigation could be set back many months. Close associates say Mr. Starr has no intention of leaving, and no reason to.

"He is not thinking of resigning," said Mark Tuohey, Mr. Starr's former deputy who returned to private practice last fall.

Mr. Starr has said that 16 of the last 17 independent counsels had other clients, and that the law that authorizes independent counsels expressly permitted such work. Last Wednesday, after an editorial in The New York Times demanded his resignation, Mr. Starr shot back a single sentence: "We are continuing on with the important work of this office."

Close associates said Mr. Starr planned to keep his private legal work to a minimum the coming months, particularly the sort of high-profile court appearances that have recently drawn wide attention, like his appearance before the Supreme Court to argue a case for the National Football League players.

U.S. Holds Sailor as Spy

Crewman Served on Missile Submarines

By David Johnston
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — A U.S. Navy machinist's mate who once served on nuclear missile submarines has been arrested on charges of military espionage.

The charges against Kurt G. Lessenthien, a machinist's mate 1st class, center on a failed effort to sell classified information to a representative of a "foreign government," the FBI said Tuesday. The government was not identified.

A Pentagon official said that on March 19, Machinist's Mate Lessenthien first made contact with a person who he believed was an agent of a foreign power but who in reality was an investigator on a joint team of agents from the FBI and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

Machinist's Mate Lessenthien, who joined the navy in 1984, offered to sell secret information related to nuclear submarines, the official said. But the FBI said investigators, who paid Machinist's Mate Lessenthien an undisclosed amount of cash, determined that he never actually provided any classified military information to any foreign government.

Machinist's Mate Lessenthien had access to highly sensitive information about submarines' nuclear propulsion systems when he served as a machinist's mate on the missile submarines Henry M. Jackson and the Tennessee and on the fast-attack submarine Albany. He also served on the Simon Lake, a submarine tender, which provides support to submarines.

With his experience and access to classified information, officials said that there could have been a potentially serious loss of military secrets related to nuclear submarine technology.

When he was arrested Monday, Machinist's Mate Lessenthien was serving as an instructor at the navy's Nuclear Power School in Orlando, Florida.

He was arrested in Orlando and is being held at the Consolidated Naval Brig, a military jail, in Norfolk, Virginia. The Navy did not release any information about his background.

Officials said Machinist's Mate Lessenthien appeared to have been motivated by the possibility of financial gain, although it is not clear how much money he thought he might earn by selling naval secrets. The manner of his arrest suggested that he was lured into a sting operation set up by investigators. But it was not clear why they first suspected he might try to sell classified information.

Machinist's Mate Lessenthien's case will be handled by the navy for prosecution on multiple charges of violating the Uniform Code of Military Justice, including the espionage, the FBI said.

Although Machinist's Mate Lessenthien's spying is said to have done no damage, his case comes after several serious espionage cases involving the Navy.

In one of the most serious cases in the mid-1980s, the FBI arrested John Walker, a former enlisted man, who used his family and Navy friends to steal secrets that they then sold to the Soviet Union.

To our readers in France
It's never been easier to subscribe and save with our new toll free service.
Just call us today at 05 437 437.

Away From Politics

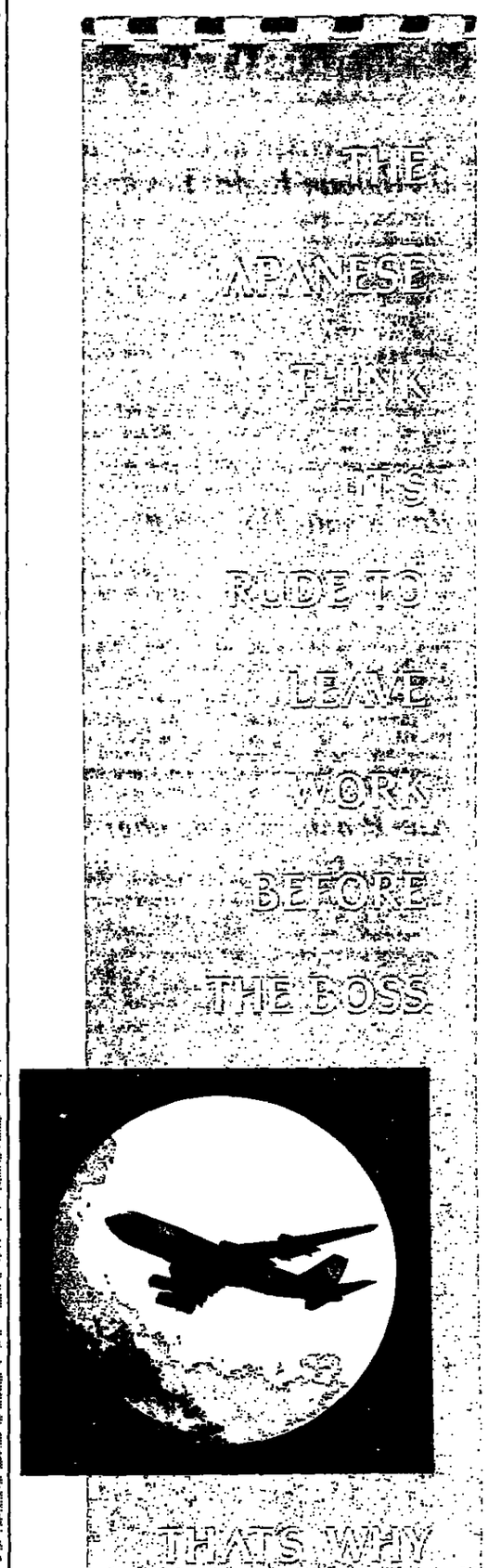
• **United Methodists have approved plans to seek a merger with the three largest black Methodist churches.** Such a merger is probably 8 to 12 years away, a United Methodist bishop said after the decision by the General Conference of the 8.6-million-member denomination in Denver. *(AP)*

• **Kevin Mitnick, the computer hacker who was arrested after a high-technology manhunt last year,** has reached a plea bargain with federal prosecutors in Los Angeles. He has admitted to possessing stolen cellular telephone devices and violating terms of probation that resulted from a previous computer break-in. Sentencing on the two counts, the more serious of which carries a maximum term of 20 years in prison, is scheduled for July. *(NYT)*

• **Two U.S. Navy fighter jets that** were engaged in dogfight maneuvers collided 15,000 feet over the Atlantic Ocean off North Carolina, but the pilots flew the battered planes 65 miles to safety. *(AP)*

• **Georgetown University announced the largest gift in its history,** a $10 million endowment from the German automaker Bayerische Motoren Werke AG, the manufacturer of BMWs. *(WP)*

• **A man already serving life in prison** for a triple murder was sentenced to death in Los Angeles for the 1980 shotgun slaying of Julie Cross, the only female Secret Service agent to die in the line of duty. Andre Alexander, 44, was convicted of killing her during a robbery attempt in 1980. *(LAT)*



The Japanese work ethic even extends to the schedule of Japan Airlines.

Across Europe, no one offers as many evening departures to Japan as JAL. Our late flights from London, Paris, Frankfurt, and Amsterdam allow a full day's work before travelling to Japan.

And because you arrive in the afternoon, you'll have time to properly prepare yourself for business the next morning.

To book a ticket, call your local JAL office or contact your travel agent. At the end of the day, it's the only way to fly to Japan.

JAL Japan Airlines
A BETTER APPROACH TO BUSINESS

ASIA/PACIFIC

BRIEFLY ASIA

China Pleased at UN Inaction On Human-Rights Resolution

BEIJING — China, through its state-run media, on Wednesday cheered the failure of a UN Human Rights Commission to pass a resolution critical of Beijing's human-rights record.

The top story in People's Daily, the Communist Party newspaper and the nation's most widely circulated newspaper, said, "The West fails again to use human rights to interfere in China's internal affairs." Most major national newspapers had similar headlines.

The 53-nation UN Human Rights Commission upheld a Chinese motion to take no action on a mildly worded resolution that voiced concern at what it said were Chinese human-rights violations. It was the sixth straight year that Beijing has dodged Western attempts to pass a UN resolution critical of its human-rights record. *(AP)*

Rao Assails Hindu Nationalists

NEW DELHI — Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao accused the Hindu nationalist party of anti-Muslim bias on Wednesday, stepping up his attack in the final countdown to general elections.

Mr. Rao's broadside came as the Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, encouraged by opinion polls, declared that it would win the elections that begin Saturday. The latest poll showed the Hindu party winning between 190 and 215 seats in the 545-seat lower house of Parliament.

"The BJP is exceeding all limits to whip up communal passions for political gains," the Press Trust of India quoted Mr. Rao as saying as he criticized the BJP-led government in the state of Maharashtra for abolishing a minorities commission that helped Muslims. *(Reuters)*

Kim Promises New Labor Law

SEOUL — President Kim Young Sam pledged Wednesday to seek new labor laws in a bid to end a decade of often violent industrial conflict and sweep away some of the last vestiges of authoritarian control.

The president's announcement of a sweeping review of restrictive labor practices was hailed by the outlawed Korean Council of Trade Unions, which called for the immediate release of imprisoned trade unionists.

At a meeting of cabinet ministers, businessmen and trade unionists, Mr. Kim said it was time for union members and managers to work together in harmony.

"We still maintain old labor-management systems and practices of the era of authoritarianism and industrialization," he said. A committee would be formed to draft new legislation, Mr. Kim said. *(Reuters)*

Afghan-Pakistani Thaw Seen

KABUL — Relations between the Afghan government and Pakistan are showing definite signs of warming, Foreign Minister Najibullah Lafraie said Wednesday.

The apparent thaw means that the two sides are likely to hold face-to-face talks in May for the first time since the crisis between them culminated in the burning of the Pakistani Embassy here seven months ago, he added.

The signs of a thaw follow efforts by he United States to reconcile the two sides. *(AFP)*

Ramos Seeks End to Rebellion

MANILA — President Fidel V. Ramos called Wednesday for "extraordinary" measures to create a breakthrough in deadlocked peace talks with Muslim guerrillas in the southern Philippines.

Mr. Ramos declined to disclose the details of the proposed solution, or how he thought the Moro National Liberation Front would react to it, saying consultations were continuing. "There is nothing decided yet," he added. *(AFP)*

VOICES From Asia

Cho Won Il, deputy foreign minister of South Korea, on whether China would take part in proposed four-nation peace talks involving China, the two Koreas and the United States: "China has not yet announced specifics, but I certainly see its intention to participate." *(Reuters)*

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister of Cambodia, as he urged Cambodians living overseas to return, using whatever passport they prefer to carry: "It's time we try to attract youth, experts." *(AFP)*

How to Annoy Friends: Beijing Shows Expertise

By Paul Blustein
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — James McGregor, the China representative for Dow Jones & Co., came to Washington last week to lobby Congress on China's behalf. In so doing, Mr. McGregor, who heads the American Chamber of Commerce in Beijing, got a lesson in how difficult the Chinese can make it to be their friend.

While Mr. McGregor was leading a "door-knock" campaign on Capitol Hill to persuade lawmakers that China is liberalizing, the Chinese authorities announced tough regulations to exercise control over foreign economic news services like Dow Jones's.

The move came as a bombshell to Mr. McGregor, who says Chinese officials had assured him privately before he left on his trip that they would ease up on the news services.

Instead, he fears, the rules could enable Beijing's news and propaganda agency to virtually take over Dow Jones's China business.

Mr. McGregor's experience illustrates China's capacity for vexing its most ardent supporters even at critical times such as now, when Washington officials are deciding whether to punish Beijing for its actions on a host of issues, including human rights, Taiwan, sales of nuclear technology and piracy of Western movies and music.

Sitting in his Capitol Hill hotel room at the end of his visit last week, Mr. McGregor, 42, tried to measure his words as he unburdened himself of his anger at being torpedoed by the very people whose cause he was championing.

"I am here lobbying because I believe I know where China is headed and how it is changing," Mr. McGregor said. "But to have this kind of difficulty with our business makes me go to sleep at night with some mixed emotions."

The irony is instructive: Corporate executives like Mr. McGregor lobby on China's behalf in large part out of self-interest, since their businesses will suffer if China-American relations deteriorate over issues such as Beijing's treatment of political dissidents. Yet businesses themselves can be victimized by the rulings of a Chinese oligarchy determined to retain its power and perquisites.

At bottom, Mr. McGregor believes, the tale reflects the clash between the old and new in China, a nation whose transition to capitalism he covered as Beijing bureau chief of the Wall Street Journal, Dow Jones's flagship publication, before switching to the business side of Dow Jones in 1993.

"The new China is the China with bank trading rooms that need the kind of real-time financial information we provide," he said. "The old China is afraid of information from the outside world somehow destabilizing its social system."

Amid his effort to promote China's interests, word came from Beijing on April 15 of tighter-than-expected rules putting foreign financial news services under the control of the New China News Agency, or Xinhua, the state-run news and propaganda arm.

The Chinese had first unveiled plans to put the financial wires under Xinhua's control in mid-January. That was a problem for Dow Jones because Xinhua had become a competitor in disseminating financial news and data, which Dow Jones transmits to 400 computer terminals in Chinese trading rooms.

If Xinhua gained regulatory control over aspects of Dow Jones's business such as contracts, customer lists and software, it would be in a position to virtually steal the business away.

"We're very willing to have Xinhua receive our news, monitor it and receive a fee for doing so," he said. "And we welcome competition. But how can we handle a competitor who is also our regulator?"

With indignation, he recalled that at his first meeting to discuss the rules with Xinhua officials, they brought along their partners in their fledgling economic news service. In subsequent conversations with government officials whom he describes as "very high level," Mr. McGregor thought he got the message across of why Xinhua's regulatory power would have to be limited-indeed, "we were led to believe that the final regulations would be much milder" than the initial plan suggested.

But the rules unveiled last week would require Dow Jones to provide Xinhua with details on the sort of information it disseminates and how the information is distributed, plus copies of all its contracts with clients. Moreover, Dow Jones would have to give Xinhua some of its equipment, which could enable Xinhua technicians to reverse-engineer the technology used to build the system.

Still, Mr. McGregor says he believes that continuing engagement with China, including retaining its most-favored-nation status as a U.S. trading partner, is the right policy for Washington.

Hoang Dinh Nam/Agence France-Presse

THE FACE OF VIETNAM — Minh Duong, a Hanoi sculptor who specializes in work for Communist Party offices, checking out a bust of the late President Ho Chi Minh at his workshop.

Yeltsin's China Trip Warms Relations

Russian Leader Bear-Hugs Jiang

Reuters

BEIJING — President Boris N. Yeltsin of Russia wrapped President Jiang Zemin in a bear hug Wednesday at the start of a visit that both leaders said meant still-warmer relations between the two countries.

"Now spring's warmth has come to Beijing, the flowers are blossoming and you can feel spring everywhere," Mr. Jiang told Mr. Yeltsin after the official welcoming ceremony. "This is a good omen for the further development of our relations."

Mr. Yeltsin's three-day visit comes with the two countries' relations at their highest point since the Chinese-Soviet Communist alliance of the 1950s, diplomats said.

"I believe this visit will definitely be a complete success," Mr. Yeltsin said after greeting Mr. Jiang, who is also the chief of the Communist Party.

Mr. Jiang and Mr. Yeltsin greeted each other as old friends, and the Russian presented the chief of the largest surviving Communist government with a Russian version of the book "My Father, Deng Xiaoping," by the paramount leader's daughter, Xiao Rong.

Mr. Yeltsin, who is accompanied by a bevy of top ministers, will oversee the signing of up to 14 agreements, ranging from trade deals and nuclear energy cooperation to a partnership to fight crime.

Among the most important is a declaration that would include a joint stand on major regional and international problems and a pact among China, Russia and the former Soviet republics of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakstan on confidence-building measures along their common borders.

Mr. Yeltsin was almost certain to try to remove the controversy over the demarcation of the 4,300-kilometer (2,580-mile) Chinese-Russian border, a move that has set off protests from an influential regional official in Russia's Far East.

The Russian president has said the demarcation will go ahead despite protests by the official, Governor Yevgeni Nazdratenko of the Primorski region, who insists that China is gaining too much land at Russia's expense under the 1991 border agreement.

Japan Hoping to Resume North Korea Talks

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — Japan hopes to resume talks by late this year on normalizing diplomatic ties with North Korea, a senior Japanese politician was quoted as saying here Wednesday.

The official, Taku Yamazaki, chairman of the policy affairs research council of the Liberal Democratic Party, the biggest force in Japan's governing coalition, made the remark at a meeting with Japanese reporters, the Kyodo news agency said.

Mr. Yamazaki and senior officials from the two coalition partners, the Social Democratic Party and the New Party Sakigake, are in Seoul for a series of talks with South Korean leaders.

The South Korean unification minister, Kwon O Kie, urged Tokyo to take account of relations between South and North Korea when dealing with Pyongyang.

"Minister Kwon asked the delegates to relay our government's hope to the Japanese government that Japan would link contacts with North Korea to improve bilateral ties, including normalization talks, with progress in inter-Korean relations," a ministry spokesman said.

Mr. Kwon also asked for Japan's cooperation in inducing the North to accept recently proposed four-nation talks aimed at securing peace on the peninsula, the spokesman said.

Tokyo has expressed support for a plan unveiled this month by South Korea's president, Kim Young Sam, and President Bill Clinton for four-way talks involving the two Koreas, the United States and China.

Mr. Yamazaki also said that normalization talks between Tokyo and Pyongyang should resume before the start of financial assistance to North Korea by the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, which was set up in 1994 to provide Pyongyang with light water reactors to replace reactors that Washington suspected were being used to produce enriched uranium for nuclear weapons.

The main contributors to the organization are Japan, South Korea and the United States. *(AFP, Reuters)*

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFIED

INTERNET WEB SITES

WWW.paris-anglo.com

Anglophone S.A.®
The Directory of English-Speaking Paris.
Over 4,200 professional contacts !
Fax (33-1) 48 59 66 68

MOVING

AGS INT'L MOVING
A.G.S. PARIS (33-1) 40 80 20 20

REAL ESTATE TO RENT/SHARE

PARIS AREA FURNISHED

5th, LATIN QUARTER, 2-room apartment in townhouse, all comforts, kitchen, bath. Tel: 1-43 54 65 69

Embassy Service
YOUR REAL ESTATE AGENT IN PARIS
Tel: (1) 47.20.30.05

DE CIRCOURT ASSOCIATES
Homes for Executives
Ideal accommodation: studio - 5 bedroom
Quality and service assured
READY TO MOVE IN
Tel: 1-47 53 80 13 Fax 45 51 75 77

AT HOME IN PARIS
PARIS PROMO
apartments to rent furnished or not
Sales & Property Management Services
25 Av Hoche 75008 Paris. Fax 1-45611020
Tel: (1) 45 63 25 60

AGENCE CHAMPS ELYSEES
Specialists
Furnished apartments, 3 months & more or unfurnished, residential areas.
Tel: (1) 42 25 32 25
Fax (1) 45 63 37 09

PARIS AREA UNFURNISHED

PRESTIGIOUS APARTMENT, 190 sq.m., in Place Vendôme area, 5th & top floors + terrace. Free beginning May. FF19,000 per month + justified keymoney. Tel: (1) 49 23 88 15.

SPAIN

MALLORCA. From Aug 16th. Luxury finca near Cala D'Or, 4 double bedrooms, 3 baths, 13m pool, gardens, mountain view. Tel/Fax 3471 807463

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAREME AS 24
AU 25 AVRIL 1996
Prix Hors TVA en devise locale
(traduction disponible sur demande)
Remplace les barèmes antérieurs

FRANCE (zone Q en FF/I - TVA: 20,6%
GO: 3,57 FOD*: 2,18
SC97: 5,31 SCSP : 5,11

U.K. zone B en £/I - TVA: 17,5% (taxe 8%)
GO: 0,511 FOD*: 0,321

ALLEMAGNE (zone I) DM/I - TVA 15%
GO: 1,05 FOD*: 0,52 (zone H)
SC97: 1,43 SCSP : 1,35

BELGIQUE en FB/I - TVA: 21%
GO: 21,24 FOD*: 10,12
SC97: 30,91 SCSP : 29,01

HOLLANDE (zone 2) NLG/I - TVA: 17,5%
GO: 1,202

LUXEMBOURG en LUF/I - TVA: 15,0%
GO: 18,78

ESPAGNE en PTAS/I - TVA: 16,0%
GO: 79,83
SC97: 102,93 SCSP: 102,84

* Usage réglementé

Attention visitors from the U.S. !

If you enjoy reading the IHT when you travel, why not also get it at home ?
Same-day delivery available in key U.S. cities.
Call (1) 800 882 2884
(In New York call 212 752 3890)
Herald Tribune

Our Next Special Headings
"SUMMER IN FRANCE"
Hotels, Festivals, etc.
will be appearing again on:
Friday, 26th April, 10th May,
24th May, 7th June, 21st June
REAL ESTATE IN LOIRE VALLEY & BURGUNDY
appears on Friday, 17th May
REAL ESTATE IN & AROUND PARIS
appears on Friday, 31st May
For information, please contact
INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE
PARIS TEL: (1) 41 43 93 85
or FAX: (1) 41 43 93 70

AIDEN. The finest American shoes. Available at WERNERS, the leading men's store in ZURICH, Bahnhofstr. 12. Phone 01-211 29 50.

FEELING low? — having problems? SOS HELP crisis-line in English. 3 p.m.-11 p.m. Tel: Paris (1) 47 23 80 80.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

OFFSHORE BANKS
INSURANCE COMPANIES
COMPANIES & TRUSTS
ASSET PROTECTION
IMMIGRATION/PASSPORTS
TRADE - FINANCE

ASTON CORPORATE
TRUSTEES LTD
19 Peel Road, Douglas, Isle of Man
Tel: 01624 626591
Fax: 01624 625126
London Tel: (171) 222 8866
Fax: (171) 233 7519.
E Mail No. aston@enterprise.net

RESTAURANT NYC-MIDTOWN East 50'S. Elegantly built, fully equipped, seats 126, heavy traffic. Great Opportunity, Partnership considered. Fax: 212-838-9827 USA.

OFFSHORE COMPANIES. For free brochure or advice Tel: London 44 181 741 1234 Fax: 44 181 748 6558 (computer fax) or 44 181 748 6338

BUSINESS SERVICES

YOUR OFFICE IN LONDON
Bond Street - Mail, Phone, Fax, Telex
Tel: 44 171 499 9192 Fax: 171 499 7517

Save on International Phone Calls
Save 50% and more compared to local phone companies. Call from home, office, caravan hotels (and avoid surcharges). Check our rates for any country and see how you can start saving today.
Call us now and we'll call you right back!
Tel 1-206-284-8600
Fax 1-206-282-6666
Lines open 24 hours.
Agents inquiries welcome!
kallback
417 Second Avenue West
Seattle, WA 98119 USA

CAPITAL AVAILABLE

COMMERCIAL/BUSINESS FINANCE available for any viable projects worldwide. Fax brief synopses in English to Corporate Advances, 44-1273-621300. Quote Ref: TI

HOLIDAYS & TRAVEL

FLAMENCO
Unique intensive immersion summer course in Flamenco guitar and dance in Seville, Spain, July 1st to 26th. Fundacion Cristina Heeren de Arte Flamenco, Calle Fabiola, 1, Sevilla 41004, Spain. Fax 34-5046432

REAL ESTATE WANTED/EXCHANGE

AGENCE CHAMPS ELYSEES
Looking for large apartments.
Company owned/quality clients.
Furnished or unfurnished.
Residential Parisian neighborhood.
Tel: (1) 42 25 32 25

EMPLOYMENT

EDUCATIONAL POSITIONS AVAILABLE

FACULTY POSITIONS
SUOMI COLLEGE
Tenure track and exchange opportunities. New college of international design in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, USA, is seeking individuals to teach undergraduate Bachelor of Fine Arts programs in product design, visual communication, ceramics and textiles, and Bachelor of Arts program in business beginning July 1, 1996. Individuals should possess an international perspective regarding business management, understanding of diverse cultures, and capability to operate within a wide range of technology adaptive to simple solutions, as well as cutting edge technology. Don't hesitate-job applications are currently being reviewed and interviews scheduled. Launch a program. Leave a legacy. Call 1-906-487-7235 or fax 1-906-487-7366 for a job description and application.

AUTO RENTALS

RENT AUTO FROM DERGI FRANCE
24 HOURS: FF 185 - 7 DAYS: FF 1900.
Tel: PARIS (33) 1-45 87 27 04.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVORCE IN 1 DAY. No travel. Write: Box 377, Sudbury, MA 01776 USA. Tel: 508/443-8397. Fax: 508/443-0763.

INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT

You will find below a selection of employment offers published in last Monday's International Herald Tribune
For a copy of last Monday's paper, please contact Fred Ronan on Paris (1) 41 43 93 91

POSITION	COMPANY	CONTACT
Sales Co-ordinator based in Middle-East	Leading International Healthcare Company	Isabelle Henkens K/F Associates Avenue Louise 523 B - 1050 Brussels - Belgium
Wholesale Marketing Associate (M/F) (Ref.: WMA 0396 HT)	Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Investments Luxembourg S.A. Karen Juory / HR Department BP 2174 L - 1021 - Luxembourg
General Management	—	Personnel & Management Consultants Inc. P.O. Box 315 8030 Zurich - Switzerland
Workshop Manager	A reputed trading House	The General Manager P.O. Box 1200 Dubai - UAE
Medical Doctor based in Paris	Intl. Pharmaceutical Company	ORS - Mr. Bouts 14, rue de Bezons 92415 Courbevoie Cedex France

YOU SAW THIS AD
So did nearly half a million potential investors worldwide looking for new investment opportunities.
Shouldn't you place your business message in the
INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE?

هكذا من الأصل

EUROPE

Aznar Government With Catalan Party No Longer in Doubt

Reuters

MADRID — Spain's conservatives are now certain to form a government with the Catalan party, which holds the balance of power in Parliament, a source close to the negotiations said Wednesday..

After almost eight weeks of bargaining since the election March 3 that ended 13 years of Socialist rule, the two sides have found enough common ground to guarantee that José María Aznar, leader of the center-right Popular Party, will form a government.

"The agreement in principle is assured," the source said. "We all know there is no alternative."

A negotiating session late Wednesday between Catalonia's Convergence and Unity coalition and the Popular Party was expected to tie up the last loose strands of the agreement, the source said.

"Both sides' positions are now fully defined," the source said. "We're just trying to determine the size of the dots on the i's."

But after protracted haggling between the Popular Party and the Catalan coalition the exact shape of the deal remained a mystery.

Mr. Aznar's party won 156 seats in the 350-seat Parliament, 20 seats short of an absolute majority. Mr. Aznar has already secured support from the Canary Islands Coalition and its four seats and just needs the 16 Catalan seats to total 176.

Federico Trillo, president of the congress, must announce at least two days in advance the date of Mr. Aznar's investiture debate in parliament. Mr. Trillo was expected to make the announcement on Thursday or Friday.

Lutz Schmidt/Reuters

GERMAN PROTEST — Students rallying against sharp spending cuts for higher education gathered at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin on Wednesday.

Ciller Faces Fraud Charges

Islamic-Backed Inquiry Approved in Turkey

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ANKARA — The Turkish Parliament passed a motion by the fundamentalist Welfare Party on Wednesday to investigate corruption charges against former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller.

The legislators voted, 232 to 179, to set up a commission of inquiry into possible links between Mrs. Ciller and contract irregularities at the state-run electricity company, TEDAS.

The investigation could imperil the six-week-old coalition government of Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz, who is backed by Mrs. Ciller. Under their power-sharing arrangement, she is due to regain the prime minister's post next year. A deputy on trial for corruption cannot serve as prime minister.

In addition, Turkish newspapers reported, she told her party earlier that she would withdraw from the coalition if Mr. Yilmaz's Motherland Party were to back the investigation.

Some Motherland deputies joined the Welfare Party in the voting Wednesday.

"The commission will work for two months," the Parliament's deputy speaker, Kamer Genc, told the assembly after the vote.

Mrs. Ciller, who in 1993 became the first woman to be Turkey's prime minister, is accused of enriching herself, her husband and their associates through manipulation of contracts and privatization sales.

The Islamic Welfare Party has accused Mrs. Ciller of ordering the Energy Ministry to favor certain companies in bids for a $300,000 work contract. Mrs. Ciller, who did not attend the Parliament session Wednesday, has denied the accusations. *(Reuters, AP)*

An Attacker Slaps Gorbachev

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Mikhail S. Gorbachev was attacked by a drunk during a campaign trip in Siberia on Wednesday, but was not injured, police officials said.

Mr. Gorbachev's office in Moscow had initially said an attempt had been made on the former Soviet president's life. Mr. Gorbachev is running for president of Russia.

The police in Omsk said a 29-year-old unemployed man slapped Mr. Gorbachev in the face as he was walking into a conference hall to give a campaign speech. The man was immediately detained by Mr. Gorbachev's bodyguards and handed over to the police.

Mr. Gorbachev, shaken by the incident, canceled his speech and left immediately for the airport.

BRIEFLY *EUROPE*

Swiss Banks and the Holocaust

WASHINGTON — Swiss banks came under sharp criticism in the U.S. Senate for their handling of accounts that belonged to victims of the Holocaust, but a banking official from Switzerland told senators that an independent commission would investigate the matter.

Hans J. Baer, a director of the Swiss Bankers Association, sought to fend off accusations that the banks had delayed for decades trying to find the rightful owners of accounts containing millions, and perhaps billions, of dollars.

He told the Senate Banking Committee on Tuesday that his association and the World Jewish Congress would form a commission to look into the matter.

Senator Alfonse D'Amato, Republican of New York, the chairman of the committee, insisted that a full accounting be provided. He said it appeared that the Swiss might be using bank secrecy laws to withhold funds. "The Swiss banks must understand that 50 years of stonewalling must end," he said.

The Swiss Banking Association says it has identified 775 bank accounts holding a total of $34 million that might have belonged to Holocaust victims. But relatives of some victims say the banks have concealed as much as $7 billion. *(IHT)*

IRA Will Take Part in Election

BELFAST — Gerry Adams, president of the Irish Republican Army's political wing, Sinn Fein, ended weeks of speculation Wednesday by announcing that his party would take part in elections in Northern Ireland on May 30.

Mr. Adams said his party would not call for a boycott of the election, which is to select negotiators for all-party peace talks starting June 10.

"Sinn Fein will contest this election," he said. "We believe that there is widespread support out there for real talks and for a democratic peace settlement."

Britain and Ireland say Sinn Fein will be excluded from the peace talks until the IRA renews the cease-fire it broke on Feb. 9 with a London bombing campaign. *(Reuters)*

Europe Council Clears Croatia

STRASBOURG — The Council of Europe cleared the way on Wednesday for Croatia to become the 40th member of the forum devoted to democracy and human rights.

The Parliamentary Assembly voted to admit Croatia despite strong reservations about the former Yugoslav republic's record on minorities, independence of the judiciary and press freedom.

More than two-thirds of the assembly's deputies stood to express approval without a formal count. Russia, the council's newest member, was admitted in February amid similar misgivings about human rights.

The council's Committee of Ministers is set to approve the vote, perhaps at its next meeting on May 2 and 3, after which Croatia would be invited to join. Ministers have never gone against the assembly's vote on membership.

Croatia would be required to ratify the European Convention on Human Rights within a year after joining, to recognize the right of its citizens to petition the European Court of Human Rights and to abolish the death penalty in peacetime within three years. *(Reuters)*

Calendar

European Union events scheduled for Thursday:

HELSINKI: The European Commission president, Jacques Santer, meets with Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen of Finland.

BRUSSELS: The commissioner for internal markets, Mario Monti, meets with the Romanian minister for privatization and economic reform, Mircea Cosea.

WARSAW: Visit by the transportation commissioner, Neil Kinnock.

Sources: Agence Europe, AFP

Bonn Delays Memorial, Jewish Official Asserts

Reuters

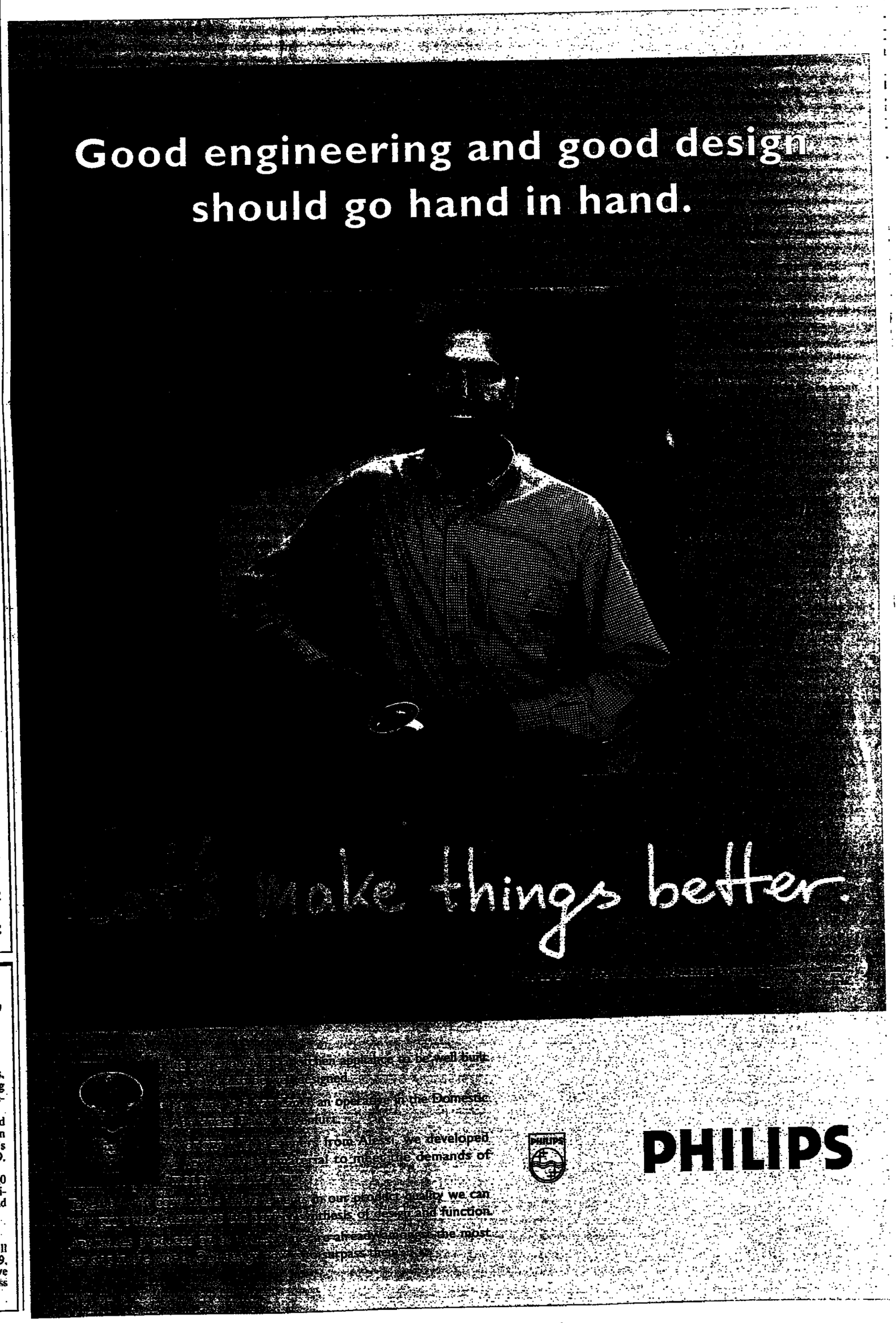
BERLIN — A leading Jewish official, Ignatz Bubis, accused German officials on Wednesday of footdragging on plans for the country's first national Holocaust memorial and said he feared the project was in danger.

Mr. Bubis expressed his concern after officials agreed to lay the cornerstone for a monument to the 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust on Jan. 27 — Germany's Holocaust Memorial Day — in central Berlin in 1999. Work was supposed to start this year.

The officials planning the memorial, meeting 10 months after Chancellor Helmut Kohl rejected the original design as "too gigantic," said they wanted to hold a broad public debate before a second try at a design.

■ London Museum by '99

A £13.2 million ($20 million) Holocaust museum will be in place at London's Imperial War Museum by 1999, officials say. Its emphasis will be how Britain might have done more to save Europe's Jews, The Associated Press reported from London.



EUROPE

Victor Drachev/Agence France-Presse

A tractor passing a burning farmhouse in the 50-kilometer quarantine zone around Chernobyl on Wednesday.

Fires Near Chernobyl Are Controlled

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MINSK, Belarus — Fires have burned thousands of hectares of forest in radiation-contaminated areas of Belarus, not far from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, but were contained Wednesday, the authorities said.

The flames engulfed 2,000 hectares (nearly 5,000 acres) of forest and peat bogs in southern Belarus, said Nikolai Braichuk, a spokesman for the Belarus civil defense agency.

He said that the fires had been contained and that no injuries had been reported.

The fires destroyed about 450 empty houses in villages that were abandoned after they were contaminated by the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in 1986, he said.

The plant is in Ukraine, just 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the border with Belarus. Almost a quarter of this former Soviet republic's territory is contaminated by radiation.

Radioactivity levels at least doubled as the fires swept through several ghost towns around the stricken reactor this week, engineers in Belarus said Wednesday.

But other officials said the fires did not increase radioactivity levels when flames swept through five abandoned villages and at least 100 hectares around the plant.

The engineers said the levels increased, but would return to normal as the fires are controlled. *(AP, AFP)*

EU Presses Britain on Cattle Culling

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Commission demanded Wednesday that Britain quickly submit a detailed cattle-slaughtering plan so that the European Union could consider relaxing the ban on British beef imposed over "mad cow" disease.

An EU spokesman, Klaus van der Pas, said the commission was eager to ease the ban as quickly as possible, but could do nothing until Britain offered proposals for destroying cattle from infected herds.

"The commission has no intention of dragging on the embargo any longer than is absolutely necessary," he said.

"It is absolutely essential that the British government put forward a clearly defined and detailed program on the slaughter program they have in mind."

The appeal to Britain came amid signs of progress toward a solution to the month-old crisis over the disease.

After a meeting Tuesday, the British agriculture secretary, Douglas Hogg, and the EU farm commissioner, Franz Fischler, expressed optimism that Britain was gradually meeting EU conditions to end the ban.

Mr. Hogg failed, however, to offer a specific program for destroying cattle judged at high risk for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, the formal name for the brain-wasting cattle ailment. Instead, the two officials discussed only the broad outlines of such a program.

The commission set no deadline for a detailed plan. But it needs the plan in time for a key meeting of the 15 EU agriculture ministers Monday in Luxembourg.

A "selective slaughter" program was the central demand made by Britain's EU partners earlier this month as a condition for lifting the trade ban.

The EU imposed the export ban March 27, a week after Britain announced a possible link between mad cow disease and a similar human illness, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

■ U.K. Court Challenge

Farmers are going to court in hope of overturning the EU ban on British beef exports, the National Farmers Union told The Associated Press in London.

Specifically, the National Farmers Union said it would challenge actions by the Ministry of Agriculture and Customs and Excise in refusing to issue documents for beef exports. The group said it also intended to initiate proceedings in the European Court.

For Irish, a New English Fear

By James F. Clarity
New York Times Service

DROGHEDA, Ireland — Since 1649, when Oliver Cromwell and his Roundheads massacred more than 1,000 Irishmen, there has been a suspicion of English actions in this hilly town on the River Boyne, three miles from the Irish Sea.

In recent years, the suspicion has grown to resentment, stirred by fears among the town's 25,000 people that England is endangering their health by flushing nuclear waste into the sea that laps up on the nearby shore.

The waste comes from the large nuclear-energy complex 110 miles (180 kilometers) east, at Sellafield, in the Cumbria region of northern England.

Neither the British nor the Irish government denies that radiation is reaching these shores from the complex. The dispute, and the anxiety of local residents, is over whether it is a serious health hazard.

The governments say no, that the amount of radioactivity reaching here from Sellafield is a tiny proportion of the radiation that people receive naturally in the normal course of life.

But many of the people of Drogheda, a pleasant 700-year-old town of high church steeples and military towers, are convinced that cases of leukemia and cancer in the area have been caused by waste emissions from Sellafield into the sea and air.

Four area residents are suing the Irish government in the Supreme Court in Dublin for not protecting them against the dangers of the British complex. Many people say they will not eat fish from the Boyne or the nearby Irish Sea.

"What they're doing over there will affect us for generations and generations," said Drogheda's mayor, Fergus O'Dowd. "A lot of people would see Sellafield as a potential Chernobyl."

Mr. O'Dowd has other problems. Drogheda has an unemployment rate of 25 percent, double the national average, and serious drug and crime problems.

The mayor points with pride to a new arts center, a modern shopping mall and one of the area's principal employers, a Coca-Cola plant, one of the largest in Europe. But Sellafield, he and other residents say, is the area's long-term curse.

Frances McClean, a sculptor and mother of two young children from Dundalk, 25 miles north of Drogheda, said: "As a mother I'm concerned for the health and safety of my children."

She said she became concerned when a close friend died of leukemia three years ago. "She believed Sellafield affected her health," Ms. McClean said. "She kept asking the doctors. They had no answer.

"I would like to see some independent studies done in Ireland on Irish people," she continued, to determine whether pockets of cancer and leukemia and Down's syndrome births might be caused by the English emissions.

The British government owns British Nuclear Fuels Ltd., which runs the four reactors at Sellafield, and its nuclear reprocessing and waste operations, and denies that what it produces is any threat to the health of the people here.

British officials accuse Greenpeace and other anti-Sellafield groups of trying to persuade people that the Irish Sea is so radiation-laden that it will someday glow in the dark. But British Nuclear Fuels says that an Irish person absorbs 10 times more radiation in an hour of commercial airline flight than is absorbed here from British emissions.

A spokeswoman acknowledged a Greenpeace assertion that Sellafield flushes 2 million gallons of water a day into the sea, but added that most of it had not been used in reprocessing nuclear fuel and carried no radiation.

Mr. O'Dowd, however, said his 10-year-old son, Donal, asked him recently, "Daddy, is there something in the air from England that could kill us?"

" 'Yes,' I told him," the mayor said.

EUROPEAN TOPICS

Bicycle Thieves Beware: Wheel May Be Turning

We can send a man to the moon and build cars that talk — why can't we keep bicycles from being stolen? In Germany, half a million two-wheelers are stolen every year.

But the wheel may at last be turning. In the city of Bergisch Gladbach, police regularly stop bikers to check registration numbers engraved into bike frames. The police carry a list that tells them the owner's initials and address. If the rider gives a wrong answer, the police insist on proof of ownership. Since the program began, theft is down 15 percent. Other German towns are copying this approach, the weekly Der Spiegel reports.

Another trend is toward fully automated bicycle parking garages. A Velomat in the center of Innsbruck, Austria, charges the equivalent of 40 cents a day, payable by special computer card, to store a bike in a seven-story silo.

The reason such measures are needed, of course, is that all but the most expensive locks are vulnerable to the tools of today's high-tech thieves. Oko-Test, a German consumer magazine, found it could recommend only 8 of 49 locks on the market. In the end, bike enthusiasts say, the best way to protect a bike may also be one of the oldest: Park it next to a nicer one with a cheaper lock.

Around Europe

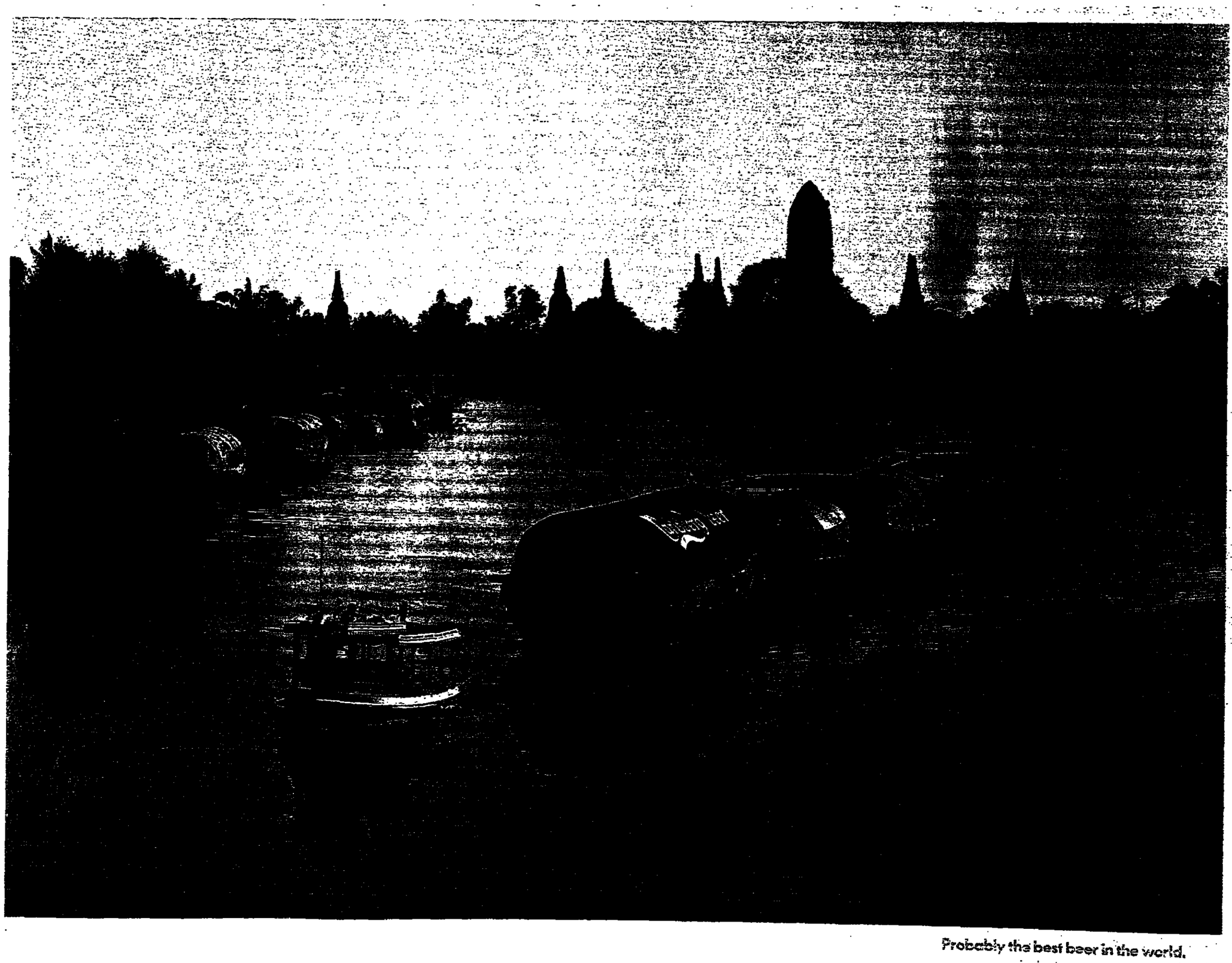
Hundreds of Dutch cats have been stricken by a mystery disease that paralyzes its victims within 24 hours. "It has turned into an epidemic," said Jan van Es, a veterinary neurologist who heads an investigative team. Some people have dubbed the malady "mad cat" disease, but experts say it is unrelated to "mad cow" disease and can be cured if caught early. Scientists say it is unclear why the epidemic has appeared only among Dutch cats.

You never know what might fall out of a family tree. More than 90 percent of Spaniards who, over the last five years, have undertaken genealogical searches of their families have found illegitimate ancestors, and 2 percent have learned that their fathers and mothers are not their biological parents, according to Alfonso Latorre Félez, a genealogist in the army's historical division. Genealogy, he told the daily El País, has become quite the rage among middle-class Spaniards.

Young doctors tend to carry far more medical equipment — tucked in their pockets, slung around their necks, carried under their arms — than do senior physicians, according to a report in the British Medical Journal. Three Edinburgh internists prevailed on colleagues to allow them to weigh their accessories. Beginners carried as much as seven pounds of material, from stethoscopes to catheters, reflex hammers to pocket flashlights. Chief physicians, on the other hand, had dispensed with all that and tended to make the rounds carrying nothing but a (usually expensive) fountain pen.

Austrian men are among the most chauvinistic in Europe, according to a survey by the University of Vienna, and some politicians want to change that. A government proposal would require prospective spouses to attend courses in housework, child care, wage distribution and fidelity. A socialist proposal would go further, requiring men to help with housework.

International Herald Tribune



هكذا من الأصل

Calm Down, Mitsubishi Head Urges

By Sandra Sugawara and Paul Blustein
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The leader of Japan's Mitsubishi group of companies is now suggesting that the federal sexual-harassment case against Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing of America ought to be "solved quietly," indicating that concern is mounting in Tokyo over the confrontational approach the plant's managers have adopted in fighting the case.

The remarks by Minoru (Ben) Makihara, the president of Mitsubishi Corp., came one day after about 2,500 workers from the plant in Normal, Illinois, staged a highly publicized march outside the Chicago office of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to protest the agency's lawsuit against the company.

Mr. Makihara's comments suggest that pressure may be brought to bear against Mitsubishi Motor's Japanese parent by other members of the Mitsubishi *keiretsu*, or corporate family, who fear that a prolonged and high-profile lawsuit could damage the Mitsubishi name. Corporations belonging to the keiretsu are independent but they maintain close ties, including mutual holdings of each others' stock and monthly meetings of their presidents.

"It's very difficult to comment without knowing exactly what happened, but definitely any type of sexual harassment or sexual discrimination is bad," Mr. Makihara said in an interview. "Instead of escalating this issue, it might better be solved quietly so as not to damage the reputation of the other Mitsubishi companies, which are completely separate."

The Illinois plant's executives said the workers organized the march themselves. But they encouraged employees to participate and have made it clear that they are aggressively going to attack the federal allegations that the company allowed a pattern of harassment including groping and demands for sexual favors.

Although Mr. Makihara has no formal power over the affairs of Mitsubishi Motors, which is run by its own executives in Tokyo, his position as president of Mitsubishi Corp., the group's giant trading company, effectively makes him the group's leader, and analysts said his words were likely to carry substantial weight with the Tokyo-based superiors of executives at the Illinois plant.

"If Makihara is saying this, I would certainly think he's speaking for a number of other companies in the Mitsubishi group," said Michael Gerlach, an expert on keiretsu at the University of California-Berkeley

He said he "wouldn't be at all surprised" if the other Mitsubishi companies leaned heavily on the automaker's Tokyo headquarters to adopt a less confrontational strategy.

Gary Schultz, general counsel at the U.S. Mitsubishi Motors plant, has been the company's point man on its legal and public relations strategy; two U.S.-based Japanese executives who outrank him have remained in the background.

At a plant-wide meeting last week, he said workers ought to fight the federal charges because the negative publicity could hurt the entire Mitsubishi family. "We bear the burden, not only for this company, but for every company that bears the Mitsubishi name," he said.

Little House in the Yard

It's Not for Everyone, but Can Become Home

By Evelyn Nieves
New York Times Service

TOLLAND, Connecticut — Even Dennis Davey has to admit the house he designed for posterity hides its charms well.

Take away the shutters, the flower box and the white picket fence, and the model he built behind his office looks like one of those backyard storage sheds sold in flat boxes at home and garden centers. When people first see the house — and lately, they have been coming to see it in droves — the reaction is usually something like: "You have got to be kidding."

But Mr. Davey, a proud architect, takes no offense. "That reaction," he said, "is only when people see it from the outside."

He is not fooling. Inside, it's another story. The entire wood-frame house is about the size of an average suburban den — 15 feet by 15 feet. Yet, oddly, it seems spacious. There is space above the white kitchen cabinets, space next to the bathroom for a walk-in closet, and space below the pitched roof for a loft bedroom.

The house, obviously, is not for everyone. For several months after he built the model, Mr. Davey received few calls about it. But recent publicity in newspapers and a trade magazine has meant that lately, he has been fielding calls from would-be buyers around the world.

"Take a look at this," he said, showing off two large fistfuls of letters. "I can't keep up."

Unlike other modular houses, Mr. Davey's 225-square-foot house is the first component of what he envisions as an expandable space that would eventually grow to become a standard-sized house. Buyers pay $9,950 (the introductory price) for the first unit. The next module doubles the space, and with all three modules added, the house becomes a square, four-gabled house of 900 square feet. Its cost, mortgage-free (assuming the buyer owns the land to put it on): about $40,000.

While Mr. Davey designed the house as a primary residence, people are calling who are interested in using it in other ways. A woman in Unadilla, New York, bought one to put behind her own house for her elderly father.

An artist in Greenwich, Connecticut, is having Mr. Davey build one as a studio in her backyard. After so many queries from people interested in the house as a home office, Mr. Davey has designed a model specifically for that. (No kitchen; more storage space.)

The calls from developers are even more creative. A developer is interested in building the houses as disaster-relief housing in Hong Kong.

Two or three housing authorities have shown interest in using the houses for public housing. A builder in Wales is advertising to sell the little houses as vacation cottages.

And the most ambitious project for the little houses could create a virtual Daveytown. A nonprofit veterans' organization, Veterans' Creed Inc., is applying for a federal grant to build 5,800 for a National Veterans Residency, Retraining and Rehabilitation Center in Brooklyn.

"Mr. Davey's house is portable, and it gives the veterans the respect of privacy," said Edward Bernard, Veterans' Creed's president. "It also costs less than other options."

Mr. Davey is tickled by the idea. He is also proud to say he doesn't skimp on the amenities. The house, heated electrically, uses standard building materials.

There is no way to tell, but he believes that, unlike mobile homes, his little house will appreciate in value just like a standard house.

Will people one day brag about owning a Davey house? "Gosh," he said, grinning. "Could be."

Jorge Adamo/Reuters

CHANGEOVER — President Juan Carlos Wasmosy, right, embracing General Lino Oviedo on Wednesday after a standoff that threatened Paraguay's fledgling democracy. The general, who had had refused the president's order to resign, was then made defense minister and gave up his army command.

U.S. as Superpower: What Next?

The Associated Press

LONDON — The United States is acting like a superpower again, but domestic pressure to retreat from world affairs is putting that role in danger, a research institute said Wednesday.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies applauded the Clinton administration for trying to put out fires in Bosnia, the Middle East, Northern Ireland and Asia through diplomatic and military leadership.

John Chipman, the organization's director, said: "If two years ago the International Institute for Strategic Studies complained that the West, and the U.S. in particular, were suffering from a bout of strategic arthritis, now it appears that a new, if guarded, extroversion has returned at least to American diplomacy."

But he said the test would be whether this activism remains, and whether it might lead to a new bipartisan American foreign policy.

"Putting out fires is a long-term procedure," he said in its Strategic Survey 1995-96. "Even if the U.S. is a reluctant superpower, to make a useful difference it must remain a persistent superpower."

"It would be disastrous for the world if the U.S. were to retreat to the kind of isolation some Republican aspirants for the presidential nomination espoused," the survey said. This was apparently a reference to the conservative Patrick J. Buchanan, who supports a less active role for the United States in world affairs.

The institute noted that there was still only fragile support among the American people for U.S. assertiveness abroad, especially if American lives are threatened or lost and costs begin to rise.

"It is an open question whether the United States, with its cost-cutting and unilateralist Congress, fickle public opinion and forthcoming presidential elections, will be able to provide the steady leadership and enduring commitment that the world clearly still requires," the survey said.

The institute, financed from private sources, is an independent center for research on security, conflict and arms control.

Its report offered a survey of threats to peace from around the world, noting that terrorism posed a serious challenge to efforts to calm conflicts in the Middle East and Northern Ireland.

"Nineteen ninety-five-1996 was a year of considerable hyperactivity in European, Middle East and Asian theaters," Mr. Chipman said, "marked by what in the old days we would have called a great deal of great-power activity and summitry."

"The U.S., Russia, China and numerous regional strong states sought to play and assert important roles," Mr. Chipman said, while collective security institutions remained in the background playing minor roles.

The Poland Investment Summit

Poland's economic growth has outshone the most optimistic of forecasts.

At the International Herald Tribune's Poland Investment Summit, President Kwasniewski and key members of his government, along with finance and business leaders, will identify the opportunities ahead and provide invaluable insights for investors.

To make sure you are kept enlightened, please fax or call today for further details.

October 17 & 18, 1996
Sheraton Hotel Warsaw

Brenda Erdmann Hagerty
International Herald Tribune
Conference Office
63 Long Acre London WC2E 9JH England.
Tel: (44) 171 836 4802
Fax: (44) 171 836 0717

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

CONNECT.

WITH ALL THE WORLD NEWS AS IT HAPPENS.

Via the world's most powerful news-gathering network, with a highly distinguished staff of journalists around the globe, all dedicated to offering you an unrivalled international perspective daily.

COLLECT.

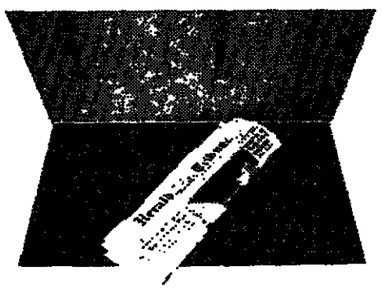
UP TO 50% OFF THE NORMAL COVER PRICE - INCLUDING UP TO 2 MONTHS ISSUES FREE OVER A YEAR.

Subscribe to the International Herald Tribune today, and you can collect 2 months of issues free - equivalent to a saving of up to 50% on a yearly subscription.

DIRECT.

GUARANTEED DELIVERY EVERY DAY TO YOUR DOOR.

When you subscribe, the International Herald Tribune is guaranteed to be delivered daily, direct to your home or office until the date of renewal.



via the Herald Tribune

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

COUNTRY/CURRENCY		12 months +2 months FREE	*	3 months +2 weeks FREE
AUSTRIA	A. SCH.	6,000		1,800
BELGIUM	B. FR.	14,000		4,200
DENMARK	D. KR.	3,400		1,050
FINLAND	F.M.	2,400		700
FRANCE	F. F.	1,950		590
GERMANY*	D. M.	700		210
GREAT BRITAIN	£	210		65
GREECE	DR.	90,000		27,000
IRELAND	£ IRL.	230		68
ITALY	LIRE	510,000		155,000
LUXEMBOURG	L. FR.	14,000		4,200
NETHERLANDS	FL.	790		240
NORWAY	N.KR.	3,500		1,050
PORTUGAL	ESC.	51,000		15,500
SPAIN	PTAS.	55,000		16,500
SWEDEN	S. KR.	3,500		1,000
SWITZERLAND	S. FR.	610		185
REST OF EUROPE ex CEI	$ US	485		145
CEI	$ US	750		225
UNITED STATES	$ US	360		115

* For information concerning hand delivery in major German cities call toll free IHT Germany at: 0130-84 85 85 or fax (069) 175 413. Under German regulations, a 2-week free period is granted for all new orders

Yes, I would like to start receiving the International Herald Tribune.
The subscription term I prefer is:
☐ 12 months (plus 2 free months) ☐ 3 months (plus 2 free weeks)
☐ My check is enclosed (payable to the International Herald Tribune)
☐ Please charge my:
☐ American Express ☐ Diners Club ☐ VISA ☐ Access ☐ MasterCard ☐ Eurocard
Credit card charges will be made in French Francs at current rates.
Card No: _____ Exp. Date: _____
Signature: _____
For business orders, please indicate your VAT No: _____
(IHT VAT Number FR74732021126)
Mr/Mrs/Ms Family Name: _____
First Name: _____ Job Title: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City/Code: _____ Country: _____
Home Tel No: _____ Business Tel No: _____
☐ I do not wish to receive relevant details from other companies

Mail or fax to: International Herald Tribune
181, avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly Cedex, France. Fax: (+33 1) 41 43 92 10
OR CALL (+33 1) 41 43 93 61
In Asia, call: (+852) 29 22 11 88, In the USA, call toll-free: 1-800-882-2884
E-Mail No: subs@ihtparis.atmail.com
Offer valid for new subscribers only.

25-4-96
CCD 2

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune
PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Fresh Start for Italy

Italy becomes the first industrialized democracy to vote in a government including not just reconstructed former Communists but also unreconstructed current Communists. This is the mark of the "Olive Tree" coalition headed by a 59-year-old economics professor, Romano Prodi, making his first run for office. He and erstwhile caretaker Lamberto Dini held down the center in a center-left coalition whose left is dominated by one large set of old Communists who are now plausibly regarded as social democrats and by another small set regarded as nostalgic Marxists. Those old-line Marxists were part of the election team but, fortunately, will not be part of the government.

The election qualifies as historic. The left came on strong in a country whose ruling establishment, with much American aid under as well as on top of the table, had dedicated itself for 50 years to keeping a strong domestic Communist Party at bay. As the Cold War ended, the center-right establishment splintered, and the national focus turned from fighting communism to fighting pervasive corruption. The first post-Cold War premier, media magnate Silvio Berlusconi, running again, succumbed this time to accusations of gathering his huge fortune illicitly. Accompanying him into opposition goes Gianfranco Fini, who could not shake his National Alliance's neofascist past.

Now the focus is turning, once more, to catching up with economic and social change. Italy is looking at the institutional reforms, programmatic changes and budget cuts that are widely seen as essential to meet the country's major policy requirements. These are to modernize a welfare state sagging under outdated and profligate ways, and at the same time to enforce the budgetary discipline that will qualify the country for Europe's economic and monetary union.

The Olive Tree coalition campaigned on a promise to make the necessary adjustments but to make them in a manner more stable and more attentive to personal security than its opposition on the free-market right. "Italy wants serenity," Mr. Prodi declared. Initially anyway, the financial markets as well as the voters agreed.

In style as in substance, Italy's problems are more or less common to all of the Western democracies, not least the United States. Whether Mr. Prodi can harness the several parts of his coalition to reach these ends is the question.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Palestinian Crossroads

An improbable but vitally important political drama is unfolding in Gaza this week. The Palestine National Council, for years a kind of parliament in exile of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has convened on Palestinian-administered territory to debate and vote on changes in the PLO charter that would remove all calls for Israel's destruction.

To this end, Israel has permitted some of the most notorious terrorists ever to have taken up arms against the Jewish state to enter Gaza. Those on hand include Abu Daoud, charged by Israel with organizing the 1972 massacre of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics, and Abu Abbas, wanted by the United States for the 1985 hijacking of the cruise ship Achille Lauro and the murder of an American passenger, Leon Klinghoffer.

The PLO's chairman, Yasser Arafat, himself once a symbol of terrorism, is urging the delegates to amend the charter's language, recognizing that it contradicts the peace agreements he has signed with Israel.

Mr. Arafat committed himself to securing the charter changes as part of last year's interim peace agreement that permitted the transfer of major West Bank population centers to Palestinian control. Redeeming that promise is a precondition for the next round of talks, scheduled to begin in May, on Jerusalem, West Bank settlements and Palestinian political status.

Mr. Arafat's tight grip on the organization he has led for nearly 30 years makes it likely that he will get his way, although not without significant opposition. Leaders of some of the PLO's most militant subgroups have refused to attend the Gaza meeting. These include Georges Habash of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Nayef Hawatmeh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Mr. Arafat's task is not made easier by the current battles between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon that have cost the lives of more than 100 Lebanese civilians. But the successive peace agreements between Israel and the PLO have taken on a logic of their own, distinct from the wider state of Israeli-Arab relations. Israel has delivered on its promise of turning over territory and authority. Mr. Arafat has acted on his commitment to crack down on Hamas terrorists. "One inch of Palestinian land and our presence on the land of Palestine is more dear than words on paper," the PLO leader said on Monday, contrasting the benefits of compromise with the charter passages he now wants deleted.

Continued negotiating progress between Israel and the PLO depends, however, on peace winning a vote of confidence from the Israeli electorate next month. Given the destructive history of PLO terror, Israelis rightly insist on reassurance that the organization will irrevocably commit itself to accepting Israel and pursuing an exclusively peaceful course. Changing the charter is a clear and unequivocal commitment.

The three-day regular session of the Palestine National Council that began on Monday is supposed to lead directly to another session dedicated to ratifying the charter changes. Successful completion of that work will mean a great deal to Israelis, as well as to Palestinians. The PLO must not turn away from this opportunity to make a formal break with its history of terror and hostility toward Israel.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

How to Save Liberia

With the scaling down of the most recent bloodshed and looting in Monrovia, Liberians face a choice as old as the invasion that launched their fratricidal war six years ago. They must decide whether their woefully rundown and chaotic West African country will function as a nation-state or remain a field of plunder for warlords and their bands of boy bandits. The international community can broker cease-fires, but only the Liberians can make peace among themselves.

The West African peacekeeping force is being criticized for failing to keep the warring factions apart. There has been a gradual hollowing out of its morale and discipline, especially among the Nigerian troops; this is apparent from their poor response to the latest outbreak of fighting. Still, the force remains a potentially useful instrument for reviving the faltering peace process. Liberia's neighbors helped silence the guns before, and they can do so once again.

The dispatch of a U.S. diplomatic team to Monrovia is an important step away from the hands-off policy that some Americans have preferred. While the ultimate resolution of the crisis is the responsibility of Liberians and their West African neighbors, the United States has a hand to play. With others, for instance, it can provide the equipment and training that the West African countries contributing troops lack. The Clinton administration has indicated a willingness to commit an additional $30 million, provided the forces of Liberia's neighbors show a "renewed capacity to play a neutral and effective peacekeeping role."

As a first step, security must be reestablished in Monrovia. The capital, while not immune from violence, has served as the closest thing to a safe haven since the war began. The streets must be taken back from the warring factions so that Liberia can put into effect the peace accord reached last August and begin movement toward a government that eventually can stand on its own feet. Demobilization and disarmament must follow. That means defanging the warlords. It is a tall order for a country desperate for basic humanitarian help and short on leadership that adheres to a moral code. An engaged United States, working with other interested countries and international agencies, can help a Liberia that wants peace.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

International Herald Tribune
ESTABLISHED 1887
KATHARINE GRAHAM, ARTHUR OCHS SULZBERGER
Co-Chairmen
RICHARD McCLEAN, Publisher & Chief Executive
JOHN VINOCUR, Executive Editor & Vice President
• WALTER WELLS, News Editor • PAUL HORVITZ, Deputy News Editor
• KATHERINE KNORR and CHARLES MITCHELMORE, Deputy Editors • SAMUEL ABT and CARL GEWIRTZ, Associate Editors • ROBERT J. DONAHUE, Editor of the Editorial Pages
• JONATHAN GAGE, Business and Finance Editor
• RENÉ BONDY, Deputy Publisher • JAMES McLEOD, Advertising Director
• JUANITA I. CASPARI, International Development Director • DIDIER BRUN, Circulation Director.
Directeur de la Publication: Richard D. Simmons
Directeur Adjoint de la Publication: Katharine P. Darrow

International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.
Tel.: (1) 41.43.93.00. Fax: Circ., (1) 41.43.92.10; Adv., (1) 41.43.92.12. E-Mail: iht@iht.com
Editor for Asia: Michael Richardson, 5 Cavenagh Rd., Singapore 0511. Tel. (65) 472-7768. Fax: (65) 274-2334
Mng. Dir. Asia, Rolf D. Krampuhl, 50 Gloucester Rd., Hong Kong. Tel. 852-2922-1188. Fax: 852-2922-1190
Gen. Mgr. Germany: T. Schlüter, Friedrichstr. 15, 60323 Frankfurt/M. Tel. (069) 72 67 55. Fax: (069) 72 73 10
Pres. U.S.: Michael Comm, 850 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Tel. (212) 752-3890. Fax: (212) 755-8785
U.K. Advertising Office: 63 Long Acre, London WC2. Tel. (171) 836-4802. Fax: (171) 240-2254
S.A. au capital de 1.200.000 F. RCS Nanterre B 732021126. Commission Paritaire No. 61337
© 1996, International Herald Tribune. All rights reserved. ISSN: 0294-8052.

Bosnia Peacemaking, Before and After Dec. 20

By Thomas L. Friedman

WASHINGTON — Ever since the Clinton administration sent 20,000 troops to Bosnia to apply the security provisions of the Dayton peace accord, it has never been clear what the U.S. exit strategy was.

Yes, there was a clear exit strategy if Serbs, Croats and Muslims all lived up to the provisions of the Dayton agreement and essentially unified Bosnia. If that happened, U.S. troops could easily withdraw after President Bill Clinton's one-year deadline, without Bosnia collapsing back into war.

But that best-case scenario never seemed likely and still doesn't. So the real question has always been how the United States will get out of Bosnia after a year without the situation there returning to war, even if the political settlement prescribed by Dayton is not yet in place.

Up to now, Clinton officials have been loath to speak on this subject. But in an interview, Secretary of Defense William Perry laid out for me the administration's first realistic exit scenario for Bosnia.

The first thing Mr. Perry said was that although the administration initially suggested that most U.S. troops would be out by Dec. 20, the one-year anniversary of the Dayton accords, the plan now appears to be for the withdrawal of troops to "begin" on Dec. 20.

NATO's commander, General George Joulwan, "has come back and said he wants to keep essentially a nearly full capability there through the full 12 months," said Mr. Perry, "which means that we can only have minor drawdowns up to that point, and which means that after Dec. 20 there would still be troops there. Most of the troops would probably be out in 30 to 45 days" after Dec. 20.

Mr. Perry has always had a modest view of what would constitute success in Bosnia. Success for him is not that all the political provisions of Dayton be implemented and the country unified.

Success for him, in terms of the NATO mission, is that the warring factions be separated, their big guns stored in cantons, the arming and training of the Bosnian Muslims undertaken, and the security conditions made stable enough for Serbs, Croats and Muslims to begin interacting and doing business, at their own pace. "The Dayton agreement keeps open the possibility of a unified Bosnia, but there's nothing in Dayton that forces that to happen," Mr. Perry said.

"That is going to be up to the Bosnians to create. It would seem, based on the evidence of the last four months, that that's not going to happen very soon. It's certainly not going to happen by the time NATO is ready to pull out of there. Saying that the country ought to be politically unified before NATO pulls out is too hard a test."

But what if NATO forces are needed to keep the peace after Dec. 20?

"What would be the argument at that point for keeping NATO in longer?" asked Perry. "I can only think of one, and that is to prevent a war from starting up again — not to reunify the country ... As we get nearer that December date, we're going to have to take a look and say, 'What is the likelihood of a war starting up again?'

"If we conclude that there's a danger, then the question that NATO will have to answer is what kind of force deployment do we need to provide an adequate deterrence for that not happening? Is air power alone sufficient? If ground forces have to supplement, do they have to be located in Bosnia or just a ready reserve force on standby?"

Mr. Perry emphasized that he did not envisage the United States stationing any ground troops in Bosnia to deter another war after Dec. 20. But, he said, if a combination of NATO air power and rapid-deployment forces stationed nearby could deter new fighting in Bosnia, then the United States "would be heartless not to consider" contributing to such a NATO mission.

But whatever force structure NATO might assign to Bosnia after Dec. 20, he stressed, it will be for the purpose of "deterring a war." "It is not going to be unifying the country. It's not going to be any of the things which the present mission has."

What Mr. Perry seems to be offering is a commonsense recognition that Bosnia has been de facto partitioned and that only time and goodwill from the parties themselves can put it back together again. NATO has bought them the time — and should find a way to continue to do so after Dec. 20. But the will to live together will have to emerge from the parties themselves.

The New York Times.

Mideast Security: Political Compromise Is the Only Solution

By William Pfaff

PARIS — The dangerous idea that force can be measured, controlled and precisely applied not only for direct but for indirect political effect was born in American think tanks of the 1950s and 1960s.

It was born because it was needed. The American style of war always before was that of unconditional surrender, after which peace could be reconstructed on a foundation swept clear of all that had been there before. When nuclear weapons arrived, this style of war no longer was thinkable.

War was rethought on the model of economics. The new strategists based their work on the assumption that all parties to a conflict would be rational actors, maximizing advantage and minimizing "pain." The limitation to this kind of thinking was its assumption that there is only one kind of rationality, that of the strategic thinker himself — or his sponsor.

Israel is a victim of this thinking. Its attacks in Lebanon over the last two weeks, originally against Hezbollah targets, were subsequently directed to provoke an exodus of refugees from northern Lebanon so as to embarrass and encumber the Lebanese government, and set back Lebanon's national reconstruction. Inflicting this "pain" on the Lebanese was supposed to make Syria "see reason."

It was meant to force the Lebanese to demand that their Syrian occupiers clamp down on Hezbollah.

This has failed, as should have been foreseeable from the start, and not merely because of the civilians who became its victims. What Israel accomplished was to reinstate Syria's President Hafez Assad as the regional strongman with whom everyone else must deal if a form of peace, or "peace process," is to be restored between Israel and its neighbors.

This is not what Prime Minister Shimon Peres wanted when he launched this ill-fated campaign.

Some Israelis and Americans now suggest that "pain" has to be applied to Hafez Assad himself — by an extension of the violence to Syria, presumably. Experience does not recommend that course.

Since Israel was founded in 1948, and the Arab powers declared war on it, both it and its American ally have repeatedly struck at Israel's tormentors.

Thousands have died and hundreds of thousands have suffered. Israel has not found security.

Israel today is in no danger of military conquest. The Katyusha rockets that Hezbollah fires from Lebanon, and the suicide bombers inside Israel, are not a mortal danger to the state.

They are a moral threat, because they inculcate the fear that the nation will never be left in peace. They fuel the internal conflicts and hatreds that afflict Israeli politics and produced the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin earlier this year.

Israel's successive victories over the Arabs have each generated new insecurities.

The threat from Lebanon was relatively small until two weeks ago. Hezbollah's resumed attacks were supposedly retaliation for a civilian death which Hezbollah blamed on the Israeli army. They were also a Syrian answer to the pressure put on Syria by Israel and the United States in the diplomatic struggle over the future of the Golan Heights. President Assad, thanks to Hezbollah and Israel, has now reminded everyone that he is a power player. He has succeeded in his aim, whereas Mr. Peres has failed in his.

On March 14 in this space ("The Drift Is Toward a Fortress Israel, With a Wall Around It"), I wrote pessimistically about Israel and the Palestinians, saying that by ignoring every earlier chance to compromise, both sides, weakened, had arrived at a point where compromises were too late. The outcome for Israel promised to be permanent insecurity and frustration, with all that implied for the future of the Jewish state.

In response I had a quite unexpected letter from the crown prince of Jordan, el Hassan bin Talal. He said that I expressed "a sense of despair that is shared by many in the Middle East," but he argued that this was exactly the sentiment that the "rejectionists" on both sides wanted to promote.

He of course is right. Hezbollah, its sponsors in Iran and Israel's own unconditional opponents of any concession to Palestinians, Syrians or Lebanon are objectively allied in their resistance to a political settlement.

Jordan, Israel, the PLO and Lebanon itself have a common interest in such a settlement. Renewed destruction in Lebanon, with still more innocent victims, like the blind rocketing by Hezbollah of Israeli villages, simply produces a new generation to go into the future dominated by hatred.

Political compromise is the only solution. Israel is in southern Lebanon because Hezbollah is there. Hezbollah is there because Israel is there. Syria is in Lebanon because control of that country and of Hezbollah is an important instrument in Mr. Assad's pursuit of his own and Syria's interests.

In principle, Israel's security on its northern fronts — and Lebanon's security — are negotiable problems. In practice they may prove not to be. National security, control of water resources, prestige and domestic politics all are at stake in the Golan for both Israel and Syria.

At this writing, neither Secretary of State Warren Christopher nor his European and Russian diplomatic competitors have anything to show for their efforts. Nor does Israel, from its escalation of the violence. Once again, any compromises, if any come, may come too late.

International Herald Tribune.
© Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Job Worries: Politicians Have Explaining to Do

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — Bill Clinton's political resurrection is widely attributed to the tactical mistakes and misjudgments of the Republican leadership in Congress and the Republican freshman class. But a brief immersion in European politics suggests that the electoral currents running in President Clinton's favor at the moment may be both broader and deeper than that.

Two impressions dominated recent discussions in Britain and France with political leaders, bankers, intellectuals, diplomats and others. The first:

Economic insecurity is a pervasive and real political force in industrialized democracies today, whether the national employment and industrial production statistics are ghastly, as in France and Germany, or on the robust side, as in Britain and America.

The arguments in America over whether workers are justified in feeling insecure or are the victims of their own exaggerated expectations miss the point. The pressures of economic change forced by technology, the expansion of free trade and foreign investment and other factors lumped under the term "globalization" are changing the way citizens think about their governments, their employers and their futures, whatever the statistics say.

The workers of America and Europe now live in a time gap — in the trough between the rapid arrival in their lives of a global economy where corporations and financiers leapfrog national boundaries, and the slow, cautious response of politicians and bureaucracies to economic forces they cannot control.

"People came to understand that workers lost their jobs when their company recorded huge losses," said a prominent British banker who is himself planning such an operation. "But how can we expect them to understand — and accept — that now they will lose their jobs while their company records huge profits? That their company makes those profits by 'downsizing' them?"

My sense of the widespread psychological vulnerability that the era of globalization is producing was reinforced by being in England and France at a moment when the controversy over mad cow disease was at a high pitch. The tiny possibility that infected British beef had been imported into France underlined for the food-conscious French the crowding in of dangers and problems from abroad.

The revolution in transportation and the opening of borders to the movement of goods, money and people have helped power globalization and its economic fruits. But these changes are identified in the minds of many with the arrival in industrial democracies of drugs, the AIDS and Ebola viruses and other scourges.

The seeming collapse of national boundaries as barriers to pestilence and crime seriously drain confidence in national governments and create fertile ground for the xenophobia preached by Pat Buchanan and Ross Perot in America and Jean-Marie Le Pen in France.

That is where the second, somewhat paradoxical, impression comes in. The political currents stirred by the new, accentuated economic and physical insecurities of the global economy cut two ways. They drain confidence in the establishment. But they also inspire a longing for government activity and involvement in reassuring voters and helping them cope in an economy that suddenly seems devoid of logic and justice for many of them.

This clearly benefits President Clinton's fortunes, which seemed to have been devastated two years ago when a current of fear and resentment washed a hard-edged Republican majority into Congress.

But the narrow, often backward-looking remedies that the Republicans proposed, as well as their tactics, triggered a reassessment of Mr. Clinton, who is shown by current opinion polls as beating Bob Dole.

That is in part because Mr. Dole has seemed tongue-tied when dealing with what he would do about the economic and social consequences that globalization is offering to and inflicting on America. Mr. Clinton benefits from a spreading realization that government still has a big role to play in bridging the gap between corporations and capital markets that treat the world as their home, and labor forces that are national entities.

Electorates yearn for political leaders who can explain in everyday terms the seemingly inexplicable and uncontrollable forces that threaten if not their jobs then their careers, or the careers that their children may never have in a world economy built on temporary, just-in-time employment.

Europeans often use political campaigns to explain issues and illuminate the choices and trade-offs that their electorates face. This year Senator Dole and President Clinton should give America a campaign that fulfills the true functions of politics, explaining and illuminating, and not stage a horse race measured in sound bites and attack ads.

The Washington Post.

It Isn't Just Accident vs. Creation

By Christian de Duve

NETHEN, Belgium — Jessica Mathews, in "Creationists Revive a Nonissue" (IHT Opinion, April 9), rightly deplores the revival of creationism. She fails to mention, however, that many popularizers of evolution, from Jacques Monod to Stephen Jay Gould, are partly responsible for this revival by using science as a prop for ideology.

Ms. Mathews is herself a victim of this kind of indoctrination when she writes that "Darwinian evolution ... means that human life is a cosmic accident, with no purpose." That misleadingly presents as scientifically proven a philosophical view which some scientists, but by no means all, derive from established facts and their accepted interpretation.

Biological evolution is a *fact*, not a theory — proven beyond reasonable doubt by the available evidence, unless one accepts the occurrence of instant creation of the world, fossils and molecular geneologies included.

The Darwinian explanation of evolution by natural selection is a *theory*, which is increasingly supported by the findings of modern science, to the point of leaving little plausible alternative in the present state of our knowledge.

Details of the process — for example, gradualism vs. punctuationalism — are still hotly debated. But virtually all experts agree that diversity arises in a given population by essentially random genetic changes, or mutations, and that the resulting mutant forms are subsequently sifted by natural selection on the strength of their relative ability to survive and reproduce under prevailing conditions.

So much for the science.

The philosophical inference of "cosmic accident with no purpose" hinges on an implicit acceptance of the word "random" as meaning "determined by chance among a huge number of more or less equally probable possibilities." It neglects the fact that, in biological evolution, chance operates within a set of internal constraints imposed by the size and structure of genomes.

When scientifically analyzed, these constraints appear as much more stringent than is commonly assumed. How stringent and what it means are matters open for discussions that have no place here.

The important point is that modern science does not *enforce* the view that life and mind are cosmic accidents.

Here, at least, is one dissenting scientist — and there are many others — who sees life and mind as cosmic imperatives.

Many people who, for various reasons, not all of them irrational, tend to reject the view of a meaningless universe would not be driven to creationism if they were not given the impression that they have no choice.

Scientific dogmatism is no more commendable than any other. It is perhaps even less so, as it claims to rest on objective, not revealed, truth.

The writer, who shared the 1974 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, is author most recently of "Vital Dust: The Origin and Evolution of Life on Earth." He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1896: About the World

BRUSSELS — With the new *train de luxe* between Ostend and St. Petersburg, and the completion of the Trans-Siberian railway in 1900, the tour of the world in 30 days will become a fact. The time of transit between London and St. Petersburg will be 45 hours, the journey to Port Arthur being performed in 250 hours. From here the steamers of a Russo-American company will convey the travelers to San Francisco in seven days, whence ten days will suffice for the return to London. The fare is calculated to cost from £50 to £80.

1921: State Capitalism

REVAL — Lenin declared to Moscow last week that "The majority of the population now consists of peasants, and we must take them into account if we want to do productive work. Of course free trade means the introduction of capitalism, but you cannot escape that. Capitalism is no danger to us if most of the factories, transport and external trades are in our hands. Up to the present we have not succeeded in giving a single concession, but we are nearer now to the conclusion of treaties... [State capitalism] will help us improve our economic condition, which we alone cannot do."

1946: Ticking Bomb

LONDON — A 1,000-pound bomb, dropped by the German Luftwaffe in 1941, began ticking tonight [April 24] and was reported by British Army engineers as "expected to explode at any moment." A warning was telephoned to Buckingham Palace, home of King George VI, to prepare for evacuation. The bomb, the last of three which fell in 1941 and failed to explode, lies buried 31 feet under St. James Palace.

OPINION/LETTERS

Remove Transport Funds From the Federal Budget

By George F. Will

WASHINGTON — In 1919 the U.S. Army ordered a young officer to take a convoy from Camp Meade in Maryland to the Presidio in San Francisco to assess the military utility of army vehicles and America's highways. Dwight Eisenhower's convoy averaged 5 miles per hour, and 35 years later he proposed funding one of the largest and most productive public works projects in American history, the Interstate Highway System.

This was the flowering of an idea advanced by General Motors' futuristic exhibit at the 1939 World's Fair, and advocated in 1944 as an antidote to the anticipated postwar depression.

However, President Eisenhower's championing of more than 40,000 miles of new highways reflected thinking with a long Republican pedigree — one that predated the emergence of the Republican Party from, among other groups, remnants of Henry Clay's Whig Party. Which is one reason why Republican senators should support the bill passed by the House last week.

Granted, many of the bill's supporters are citing high principles in the service of low motives. But although many are doing the right thing for the wrong reasons, they are right to favor removing the four transportation trust funds (highway, airport and airway, inland waterways, harbor maintenance) from the budget.

Each is funded by user fees, mostly fuel taxes. These are dedicated funds, meaning that they can only be spent for each fund's particular infrastructure purposes. But if not fully spent, their surpluses, which now are a cumulative $31 billion and rising, count as a federal asset, reducing the deficit number by that amount.

Taking the trust funds "off budget" would increase the deficit by that amount as quickly as the funds could be spent. That might be quite quick, because transportation projects are favorite forms of pork, particularly for contractors and construction unions who express gratitude with campaign contributions. And because the funds, if left "on budget," would have growing surpluses to help mask the deficit, the Office of Management and Budget estimates that removing them from the budget will require $50 billion of additional cuts to balance the budget by 2002.

Which is one reason for removing them. Another is that money dedicated to one purpose (transportation) should not be hoarded for another purpose (to make balancing the budget easier).

Those who say the Social Security surplus also masks the deficit invite this response: Right, so cut Social Security taxes. Will spending the trust funds unleash the never more than lightly leashed temptation to buy pork? Certainly, which is why the president should be held accountable for the use he makes, or does not make, of the line item veto.

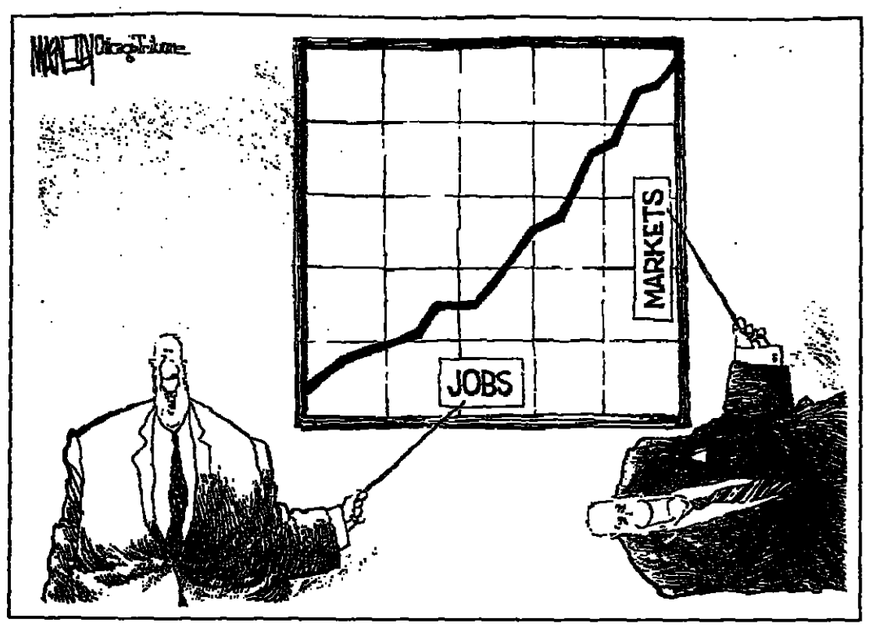
If the nation does not need to spend as much more on transportation as the user fees generate, cut the fees. But the needs are alarming, as the condition of highways and airports demonstrate. And no Republican in the Clay-Lincoln-Eisenhower tradition questions the national role in addressing such needs.

In 1807, young Senator Clay, having come from Kentucky to Washington over corduroy roads (formed by split tree trunks and logs), quickly found himself in opposition to President Thomas Jefferson, who thought the constitution did not empower the federal government to fund "internal improvements" such as the toll bridge Senator Clay thought Congress should build across the Potomac. Such improvements were central to what became Mr. Clay's "American System."

It envisioned federal measures nurturing economic dynamism, not just to produce prosperity but to foster harmony among the nation's regions. Which is why the lanky young grocery clerk interested in making the Sangamon River more navigable near New Salem, Illinois, was a Clay man 30 years before becoming the first Republican president and an advocate of the transcontinental railroad.

In today's context, it is offensive to Republicanism, properly understood, that funds dedicated to clear and urgent national purposes are being hoarded to make it easier for the federal government to continue subsidizing Amtrak, ethanol and public television.

Washington Post Writers Group.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Orthodox Church

Regarding "A Church's Painful Revival" (April 17):

The Western church has consistently been an unwilling partner in nationalism. However, the Church of New Rome, what was to evolve into the Orthodox Church, has always felt the need for a state machinery, with which it functions as a somewhat subservient partner. This symbiosis is even exhibited in the form of a double-headed eagle. It has been the political side that has, more often than not, determined the direction its religious counterpart takes.

Whereas the Western popes discovered long before Acton that "power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely," the Eastern church has always shown itself submissive to power in whatever form it might take — left or right, Byzantine, Ottoman or Russian.

Attempts, such as those of the preacher Georgi Kotchetkov and the religious scholar Alexander Kyrlezhev, to create a new awareness in Russian Orthodoxy are not new and should be considered part of a tragic chorus of such voices that were silenced just before the revolution of 1917.

Orthodoxy was enthusiastically united in its support of the Serbian actions in Bosnia. The cross of the Serbian patriarch blessed the murderous weapons that were then turned on the Bosnians.

NICHOLAS STAVROULAKIS.
Hania, Crete.

Mandela's Friends

Regarding "Mandela Has Unsavory Friends" (Opinion, April 5) by Robert H. Phinny:

It is all very well for Mr. Phinny to take the moral high ground in criticizing Nelson Mandela for inviting Moammar Gadhafi and Fidel Castro to South Africa. As he rightly points out, President Mandela is a man of high moral standing. But it is wrong to suggest that Washington should now keep an eye on whom Mr. Mandela sees, and to insinuate that such contacts will compromise the goodwill and investment that South Africa is getting from the West.

Why should we South Africans have the same friends as Americans? Has Mr. Phinny forgotten that President Bill Clinton recently visited the Syrian dictator Hafez Assad with great pomp and ceremony? Does he simply discount the number of times recent American presidents have danced with the devil?

The list of Washington's "friends" of dubious moral standing is long and goes beyond the Alfredo Stroessners, Mobutu Sese Sekos, Manuel Noriegas and Saddam Husseins, to name just a few of those who later fell out of favor.

Let's get realistic. Has Mr. Phinny thought for a moment that Mr. Mandela may have some influence on these gentlemen that might improve the international climate? Yes, we need all the help we can get from America, and its democratic influence is highly valued. But let's talk as equals — we speak the same language, after all.

ROMAN ROLLNICK.
London.

Woman Emissary

Regarding "U.S. Emissary in Afghanistan" (April 20):

As a secular Muslim, I was surprised to read that the State Department has sent Robin Raphel to Kabul to negotiate an end to the prolonged civil war between fundamentalist Muslim factions in Afghanistan.

The extreme naïveté of American politics is revealed by this decision to send a woman as emissary to Muslims, who consider testimony by two women equal to that of one man — and who therefore will certainly not take Ms. Raphel very seriously.

H. NIAYESH.
Nice.

Was a Corporate Censor Behind Radio Firing?

By Frank Rich

NEW YORK — Bob Grant, the popular New York radio talk-show host canned at WABC, has a voice so mean he could make your blood run cold even when he wasn't wishing aloud that Magic Johnson would contract full-blown AIDS or that Ron Brown wouldn't survive his plane crash.

But the way he was abruptly yanked from the airwaves last week — in an opaque two-sentence statement, by one of the world's largest media goliaths — also induces the chills. This is an ugly story all the way around.

Mr. Grant has been spewing his venom for years, much of it far more tasteless than his recent Brown aside, and yet he was removed only after protesters started targeting Disney, which recently completed its purchase of Capital Cities/ABC, the owner of WABC. Among those protesters were Jesse Jackson, who exchanged letters about Mr. Grant with Michael Ovitz, the Disney president, and Al Sharpton. Given Mr. Sharpton's own acquiescence with black hate-talkers, who is he to be policing WABC?

On the other hand, the pro-Grant protesters who now cry that their hero has fallen victim to "political correctness" are also hypocrites. Where were they when WABC summarily yanked another, nationally syndicated talk-show host off its schedule only a month ago? That victim was Alan Dershowitz, whose crime, WABC said at the time, was calling Bob Grant a racist on the air. The conservatives now defending Mr. Grant's freedom of speech said nothing on behalf of Mr. Dershowitz.

The issue in Mr. Grant's case isn't censorship in any event. He'll turn up elsewhere on the dial soon enough. The real question is whether a broadcaster as powerful as WABC is making its programming and editorial decisions independently, without fear or favor, rather than caving in to outsiders, whether of the left or right.

Floyd Abrams, the constitutional lawyer and First Amendment champion, applauds WABC strongly for jettisoning a figure as inhumane as Mr. Grant — "it's more than defensible to say we don't want to be associated with you" — but adds that "we have to be sure that this precedent is limited in scope." What would worry Mr. Abrams is if such decisions were made either in response to external pressure or to avoid controversy, "to bland up American life."

Mr. Dershowitz, second to none in his outspoken revulsion at Mr. Grant, nonetheless argues that WABC should have kept both men on the air.

"I err strongly on the side of not tampering with the open marketplace of ideas as long as there's full opportunity for response," he says. "Grant can say his racist things and I'd call him on it." Mr. Dershowitz says that "the fundamental question" is whether Disney, a huge company with a wholesome image to protect, should own stations with talk-radio shows in the first place, since the whole notion of raucous, often incendiary radio talk is at war with Disney's desire to avoid controversy and reach every market.

Although the Los Angeles Times, USA Today and Bob Grant himself have all speculated that Disney played a role in his firing, corporate spokesmen for Disney and Capital Cities/ABC insist the decision was ABC's alone.

The ABC president, Robert Iger, will not respond to requests, mine included, for an on the record interview that goes beyond canned official pronouncements. Into this vacuum steps Al Sharpton, who is crowing about how easy it is to cow the new, Disney-owned ABC.

"WABC ignored us for years," he told the New York Daily News. "But a multinational corporation like Disney has to respond, because it's more vulnerable."

As long as the perception persists that ABC is more malleable under its new ownership, the more a Sharpton — or a William Bennett or whoever — will try to influence its menu of news and information, and not just its roster of New York radio personalities. ABC has the right to fire Bob Grant, but its reticence in addressing the issues surrounding that firing fuels questions that won't disappear with Mr. Grant's noxious talk.

The New York Times.

MEANWHILE

BOOKS

EAST TO AMERICA: Korean American Life Stories

By Elaine H. Kim and Eui-Young Yu. 386 pages. $25. New Press.

Reviewed by
Jay Mathews

WHEN I lived in and wrote about China, Korea seemed a digression, a cold little hard-luck country that would never amount to much. It seemed as intrusive and irrelevant as a dish of kimchi at a roast-duck banquet.

Then in 1980 I moved from Beijing to Los Angeles. There were a lot of people from Korea in Southern California. They were revitalizing the public schools, remaking inner-city commercial districts, invigorating health-care services and politics and the arts. I recalled that my own family traced its origins to a cold little hard-luck country, an island just west of England that had suffered similarly from invasion and division and famine and war.

I counted surnames in the freshman register of my elder son's college. There were 19 Kims studying alongside just three Joneses and four Smiths. My younger son made a close friend, Bryant Park, a wonderful boy who is now a freshman at Johns Hopkins University. His father and mother, both Korean immigrants, seemed to be more conscientious citizens and parents than I was.

I had many questions, among them why sentiments like those in the preceding paragraph would as likely annoy as please the Korean Americans I was admiring. This irresistible collection of oral histories provides many answers. The Korean diaspora, sadly made newsworthy by the 1992 Los Angeles riots, emerges here as no Up-With-America fairy tale, despite the misplaced inclination of Americans like me to make it so.

Elaine M. Kim and Eui-Young Yu provide much color and depth, somewhat flattened in spots by the heavy editing that some of the taped interviews apparently required. They also wait too long to explain a key term, *sa-i-gu*, Korean for April 29, the first day of the riots. Nonetheless, the stories shine. Rarely does a book cut so quickly into the heart of an immigrant community.

The first significant group of Koreans to reach American territory were welcomed as part of what now seems, nearly a century later, to be an unforgivably shabby scheme — the Hawaiian sugar plantation owners' plot to quash Japanese laborers' rebellion against bad wages and working conditions by bringing in compliant Koreans to replace them. Between 1902 and 1905 about 7,000 Koreans, almost all men, came to Hawaii.

That flow ended when Japan took full control of Korea in 1905 as a result of its victory in the Russo-Japanese War. Tokyo's rule of Korea was full of horrors, and eventually led to the outburst of Korean immigrants to America after World War II.

Kim, a professor of Asian-American studies at the University of California at Berkeley, and Yu, a professor of sociology at California State University, Los Angeles, let 40 Korean-Americans, including themselves, tell how this happened. It is difficult to stop reading after the first story, the odyssey of K.W. Lee from bitter and terrified Japanese kamikaze trainee to wisecracking, award-winning American newspaper reporter and editor.

There are tales of a teenage gang member in a neighborhood near Los Angeles International Airport, of a gay AIDS worker in Koreatown, of a college student adopted as a child by a white couple through the famous Holt agency, and of an assortment of Americans who tell how they built lives out of nothing but a willingness to work 16 hours a day.

Assumptions and stereotypes evaporate. The image of Korean-American shopkeepers shooting at African-American looters in 1992 loses focus when seen through the eyes of people who remember that African-Americans gave Koreans the warmest welcomes in the 1950s. Often dozens of members of a Korean family came solely because of one black soldier's decision to bring home a Korean wife.

It seems romantic to middle-class Americans jaded by welfare-fraud stories to hear of Korean Ph.D.s willing to run convenience stores just to get a foothold in America. This book illuminates the grit of these people, but also shows the emotional and familial cost.

I looked for stories that approximated the lives of my sons' friends. The closest was that of Alexander Hull, a young businessman with degrees from the University of California at Irvine and Harvard. He changed the spelling of his name from Hou because it was so often mispronounced. He received A's in school while spending hours each day helping his parents run a series of small businesses. At the end of his story he is nearly 33, proud of his parents, happy with his accomplishments, but finding himself wondering, with some excitement, how to create a life. He was not allowed to date while growing up. His father said, "Study hard now; after you've finished studying, you'll have plenty of women to choose from."

Jay Mathews is a national reporter in the New York bureau of The Washington Post.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

THE quiet 50-year-old man who died Sunday of a heart attack as he left his Long Beach, L.I., home headed for a tournament was a familiar figure to enthusiasts, in part because he would circle playing areas in a mechanized scooter. But few knew that he served the Nassau-Suffolk Bridge Association in many ways, most recently as president; that he owned 18,000 master points, more than anyone else in the New York area; that he had twice nearly won national titles, and that he had battled physical problems all his life. He had spent eight years in hospitals in which surgeons sought to correct problems with his hands and feet and these were aggravated when he was involved in a 1988 car accident.

His name was Howard Chandross.

A favorite deal, shown in the diagram, was played in the 1978 New York Blue Ribbon Individual Championship. He sat South, and when three clubs was passed around to him he ventured three hearts, was raised to game and doubled by East.

West's lead of the club king was normal, though not best. South won and led a spade to the queen losing to the ace. This was the moment of truth. East returned a spade in the hope that his partner could ruff. South threw a club, won with the king in dummy, and led the diamond queen. East won with the diamond ace and led the spade ten.

Chandross ruffed with the heart six and was in control when West was unable to overruff. He cashed the diamond king and crossruffed to make his doubled game. East found that two early trump leads would have defeated the contract.

	NORTH	
	♠ K Q 7 3 2	
	♡ K 10 7 3	
	◇ Q 6	
	♣ 8 4	
WEST (D)		EAST
♠ 8 4		♠ A J 10 9 6
♡ 7 5 4		♡ Q 8 2
◇ 8 7 4		◇ A J 10 5
♣ K Q J 9 6 5		♣ 10
	SOUTH	
	♠ 5	
	♡ A J 9 6	
	◇ K 9 3 2	
	♣ A 7 3 2	

North and South were vulnerable. The bidding:

West	North	East	South
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	3 ♡
Pass	4 ♡	Dbl.	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West led the club king.

WHAT THEY'RE READING

• **Valérie Vincenti**, production assistant on French television, is reading "*Le Prince de la Fourchette*" by Olivier Bleys.

"A baroque adventure which rattles the brain."

(Charlotte Sector, IHT)

Every experience should be as unique as each Golden Tulip Hotel and Tulip Inn.

Worldwide Hospitality
Golden Tulip
Worldwide

Today Golden Tulip Worldwide is one of the largest hotel groups in the world with more than 300 Golden Tulip Hotels and Tulip Inns in 200 cities across 60 countries, each ready to serve the individual business traveller.

Whether you stay in one of our luxurious Golden Tulip Hotels, or at any of the comfortable, value-for-money Tulip Inns, you'll enjoy superior corporate rates, generous programmes designed to give the business traveller every possible advantage, and benefit from deals with our global partners in hospitality such as KLM, Northwest, Air UK, Avis, and of course AT&T.

Next time you travel for business, experience the Golden Tulip difference.

Yours.

300 HOTELS. 200 CITIES. 60 COUNTRIES. WORLDWIDE HOSPITALITY.

RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION

Belgium toll free 0800 143 44
France +33 (0) 1 48 07 84 74
Germany +49 (0) 211 49 11 214
Holland +31 (0) 20 6 70 16 06
Holland toll free 06 022 7711
Italy toll free 1678 18054
Spain +34 (0) 1 594 3042
Sweden +46 (0) 8 673 4300
Switzerland +41 (0) 1 439 4039
UK +44 (0) 1 817 700 333
UK toll free 0800 95 1000
USA/Canada toll free 1 800 344 1212
Japan +81 (0) 3 5561 9644

You can also contact any Utell Reservations Office Worldwide.

Participating Golden Tulip Hotels and Tulip Inns are proud to offer AT&T in every room for calling back to the States or over 240 other countries. To reach AT&T, just dial the AT&T Access Code of the country you're calling from. A list of these can be found in the back page of the International Herald Tribune.

AT&T

INTERNATIONAL

Uneasy Calm Is Returning To Monrovia

Peacekeepers Offer Little Security as Rival Militias Roam the City

By Howard W. French
New York Times Service

MONROVIA, Liberia — After two weeks of bloodshed and panic brought on by the sudden renewal of Liberia's civil war in the streets of this crowded capital, a sort of calm has returned as many shell-shocked and destitute citizens have come out of hiding, hoping to rebuild their lives.

Monrovia saw its first semblance of normalcy since warring militias began their spree of killing and looting on Easter weekend — a spasm of violence that prompted the U.S. military to evacuate about 2,000 people by helicopter and that has led to 5,000 Marines now being stationed on ships offshore.

Troops of the West African peacekeeping force, who seemed to melt away in the early phases of fighting, began redeploying in many areas, but offered little sense of security.

For these demoralized soldiers, who only recently kept this city under a tight lid, the job of peacekeeping consisted of little more than waving carload after overstuffed carload of heavily armed and dope-smoking fighters — mostly early adolescents — through checkpoints.

The leader of the country's largest militia, Charles Taylor, a descendant of the freed American slaves who founded this West African country, has taken to referring to himself as "the government" these days. It is clear from the raucous chanting and wild driving of his young soldiers that his forces, like those of every other militia that has taken over this city after nearly seven years of war, feel exhilaratingly empowered.

"We are just waiting for our Pappy," said a 16-year-old named Nester, who slung a rifle casually on his shoulder as he danced with a clutch of young female street vendors in the Congotown neighborhood near Mr. Taylor's residence.

Moments later, with the sirens of a huge escort blaring, Mr. Taylor drove by in a Peugeot sedan whose license plates read "PR," for president. For an added measure of protection, a truck bearing a huge anti-aircraft gun followed.

With occasional crackles of gunfire and roving militiamen everywhere, Monrovia today is a place where zones of influence of rival warlords come dangerously and unpredictably into contact.

And the militia leaders themselves seem to be realizing that their giddy, runaway forces represent a major problem. Liberians sweeping up Tuesday said that more people died in car wrecks caused by inexperienced fighters driving commandeered vehicles than by gunfire.

It was far too early to say whether any of the many players in this country's crisis possess a big enough stick to impose a sturdy peace.

A high-level U.S. delegation led by a deputy assistant secretary of state, William Twaddell, began discussions here Tuesday aimed at finding an answer to that question.

Mr. Twaddell said that his delegation would be speaking with leaders of the West African peacekeeping force, which is led by Nigeria and which is known as Ecomog, to explore ways of strengthening its presence here.

With about 5,000 U.S. Marines on ships just offshore, Mr. Twaddell said that Washington was prepared to spend $30 million to help the peacekeeping effort here and would be discussing, among other things, U.S. help in training a regional force.

Street-level discussions with the peacekeepers made the reasons for their sagging morale painfully apparent. Many of the 10,000 West African soldiers, about 80 percent from Nigeria, have been stationed here for two years, badly paid, ill-equipped and poorly billeted while facing increasingly aggressive irregular armies.

City officials have estimated that at least 200 people, mostly civilians, have been killed since the fighting broke out two weeks ago.

UN officials said one of the first trucks to leave the port loaded with food aid on Tuesday was held up by fighters of the United Liberation Movement, an ally of Mr. Taylor's force.

Agence France-Presse

Shizue Takahashi, whose husband was killed in the gas attack, being swarmed by reporters outside the court.

TRIAL: *Japan's Guru of Armageddon Refuses to Enter a Plea*

Continued from Page 1

crimes, ranging from manufacturing LSD to ordering the murders of an anti-cult lawyer, his wife and their 1-year-old son. His trial could take years.

There is no jury system in Japan, and most cases are heard by a three-judge panel. But because of the extraordinary complexity of the Aum case, four judges are considering the evidence against Mr. Asahara.

Prosecutors contend Mr. Asahara believed that the U.S. military and the Japanese government were plotting against him. He and his followers allegedly planned an "Armageddon" that would save Japan by destroying it. Mr. Asahara reportedly believed that killing people freed them from their worldly sins and increased their chances of salvation in the next world.

His sect developed a global network of supporters, and built up a huge stockpile of chemical weapons, arms and drugs, the police have said. Japanese police seized tons of chemicals used to make sarin, the nerve gas used in the subway attack, from the group's headquarters near Mount Fuji.

Terrorists Come Home

Even the Rejectionists Now Face Reality

By Barton Gellman
Washington Post Service

GAZA CITY — Leila Khaled wears sensible pumps and cuts a rather more matronly figure now than when she hijacked her first airplane in 1969. Unlike some aging revolutionaries here, she has lost none of her zeal. Miss Khaled arrived last week on Palestinian land for the first time in her adult life to cast a resounding "no" when asked to vote on recognizing Israel's right to exist.

A veritable rogues' gallery of Palestinian leaders notorious for their association with terrorism has joined her for the first meeting of the Palestinian National Council since 1991. Mamdouh Nofal smiled politely, sipping tea and pretending not to hear the name of the Israeli town where his faction slaughtered 25 people, mostly children, in 1974. Mohammed Abbas, his middle-aged belly spilling out of a fashionable herringbone tweed suit, declared that his return is "part of the struggle" — and that the murder of Leon Klinghoffer, a wheelchair-bound American, by his men aboard an Italian cruise liner in 1985 was "a mistake."

The Palestinian leaders who opposed the terms of Mr. Arafat's peace agreement with Israel came because they had no better choices, and because even rejectionists nowadays are coming to terms with reality.

The Palestinian National Council is usually called a parliament-in-exile, but the exile ended this week. For the first time since 1966, the year before Israel conquered the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the highest legislative body of the Palestinian national movement is convening within the boundaries of historical Palestine. That is a major victory for Mr. Arafat and the pragmatic path he chose three years ago. For a long time after he signed his first accord with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the Palestinian leader could not lure a quorum of his 18-seat executive committee to any meeting place in the world. Now he has managed to bring the whole parliament to the very self-rule territory created by the accord.

"Sometimes in our wild dreams we thought we'd be buried here, if we were lucky," said Salah Tamari, a Palestine Liberation Organization guerrilla captured by Israel in Lebanon in 1982. "But to come and live here was beyond our wildest imaginations."

Mr. Tamari, like the large majority of delegates, supports the agreements with Israel that created what he regards as the kernel of a Palestinian state.

Mr. Arafat's victory is magnified by its taking place amid highly unfavorable circumstances. Israel has imposed the harshest closure ever on the West Bank and Gaza, after a series of devastating suicide attacks in Jerusalem, Ashkelon and Tel Aviv. Television screens are full of images of Arab suffering under Israeli guns in Lebanon. The interests of some 4 million Palestinian refugees — the major constituency of many delegates here — have not yet been addressed in the peace talks.

And just as Mr. Arafat is long overdue to change the covenant, according to his agreements with Israel, so Israel has chosen until now to disregard treaty obligations such as releasing Palestinian prisoners and withdrawing troops from the West Bank city of Hebron.

Not only their constituents but many of the delegates come from villages that became part of Israel in 1948. Self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip does not, therefore, bring them home, and that is one reason why amending the covenant proved so hard for so long.

"We will never give up or forget that Palestine is our home," said Abdallah Abdallah, the PLO "ambassador" to Greece, who was born in Jerusalem.

Or, as An Nahar editorialized Monday, "We will stop claiming all of Palestine if they do, too."

Do not expect Miss Khaled to join the vote, however. At 27, she hijacked a TWA jet from Rome to Damascus, diverting it from the Israeli airport then known as Lod. Today, at 54, she said she has no regrets and no intention of reconciling with Israel. "As long as there is occupation, it is the right of a people to resist the occupation, even by armed struggle," she said.

France Puts Reins on Health Care

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

PARIS — The French government decreed sweeping changes in the state-run health care program on Wednesday that will let computers monitor how much every patient costs the system and penalize doctors who exceed their spending or prescription budgets.

The measures are considered the most far-reaching changes in 50 years in universal health care here, and they moved France, like Britain, Germany and the United States, toward the kind of spending controls that are known in America as "managed care."

Government officials denied that the measures constituted rationing of what has been considered the universal right to unlimited health care, with practically no questions asked of doctors or patients of what was required.

The government's decrees would have the immediate effect of requiring patients to consult general practitioners before going to specialists or consultants, as many people do now.

That led Richard Bouton, the head of the MG-France association, the largest doctors' group in the country, to say, "General practitioners have much more to gain in this reform than to lose."

But specialists — surgeons, psychiatrists and others — might find their incomes sharply reduced, just as specialists and pharmacists in Germany and the United States have found their incomes cut back as governments and companies seek to reduce the spiraling costs of providing health care.

Prime Minister Alain Juppé's earlier attempt to rein in the French welfare state — by tightening the rules for retirement pensions for government employees — sparked a monthlong transportation strike last winter.

The three decrees approved by the cabinet Wednesday led many doctors to close their offices or give out free prescriptions for a day, but MG-France did not participate in the protest.

"In 1995, urban medical spending grew by close to 5 percent," said Social Affairs Minister Jacques Barrot, who said the immediate goal of the decrees was to keep medical bills from rising this year by more than 2.1 percent.

Public spending on health insurance, pensions and family allowances now amounts to nearly $360 billion a year, most of it in salary deductions and mandatory contributions by employers that can amount to an additional 40 percent of every salary a company pays.

President Jacques Chirac has said that heavy payroll taxes discourage employers from hiring people and contribute to the high rate of unemployment here, now 11.8 percent of the labor force. Eventually, Mr. Juppe's plan will find ways of taxing other income, not just wages, to pay for social insurance, but the immediate goal is to get better control over its rising costs.

The changes are intended to enable the government and Parliament to set overall spending limits on prescriptions, hospital care and doctors' consultations by issuing computer identity cards to monitor exactly what each patient costs the system in doctors' bills and prescriptions, and whether doctors in the system keep to their spending budgets.

The French system allows people to pick their own doctors and reimburses them for most of the cost of treatment, hospitalization and medicine, and Mr. Juppé said that he had rejected proposals to control costs by rationing care, which in effect is what the British National Health System does for elective surgery.

The plan would track individual doctors, through the chips on the new identity cards all French people will soon be getting, and cut back on the doctors' reimbursements if they overspend the budgets set for them.

Advocates of the right of privacy, however, questioned whether the government would make sure individual health records were safeguarded. Records could be accessible to anyone who pushes a patient's electronic care card through a scanner.

The decrees now must be approved by Parliament, which will decide from year to year on overall health spending targets instead of leaving administration of the 19 separate national health insurance plans to supervisory committees composed equally of employers and labor union representatives, as in the past.

Mexican Governor Is Accused in Killings of 17

New York Times Service

MEXICO CITY — A special investigation by the Mexican Supreme Court has found that the former governor and several officials of the coastal state of Guerrero tried to cover up the killing of 17 poor farmers by state policemen last June.

The court also found that the former governor, Ruben Figueroa Alcocer, had violated the peasants' rights of free speech, free transit and personal liberty by ordering that they be kept from attending an anti-government rally.

But the justices said Tuesday that they could not determine whether Mr. Figueroa had actually given police orders to open fire on two trucks loaded with people on their way to a rally in Coyuca de Benítez, on the Guerrero coast, just north of the resort city of Acapulco.

President Ernesto Zedillo last month used a clause of the Mexican constitution to ask the justices to intervene in the case.

Their report contradicts the findings of a special prosecutor who in February exonerated Mr. Figueroa and other leading state officials from any responsibility for the massacre or the attempt to cover up.

Italy's Communists Determined to Savor Their Taste of Power

Reuters

ROME — Communist Refoundation, the Italian Marxist party whose support could be vital for the survival of the future center-left government, met Wednesday to discuss its strategy for the new Parliament.

The party's leader, Fausto Bertinotti, repeated his vow Wednesday that he would not unreservedly back the Olive Tree alliance on every issue. The coalition clinched a clear victory in the general election Sunday, but will need help from at least one outside party to govern smoothly.

"No one will ever be able to ask us to vote against workers' rights," Mr. Bertinotti said in an interview with Liberazione. "The survival of this administration will depend upon its policies," he added.

The Olive Tree coalition of centrist and leftist parties led by an economics professor, Romano Prodi, forged an alliance with the Marxists but shares few policy goals.

Some commentators said they thought the first major test of the uneasy relationship between the center-left and the Marxists would come with the presentation of the 1997 budget in September.

MIDEAST: *Talks Gain, Christopher Says*

Continued from Page 1

cellation of a planned Christopher-Assad meeting Tuesday. They said that Mr. Assad, who is 65 and has battled health problems for more than a decade, appeared exhausted during the meeting Wednesday.

"The story in the media, which was trying to say something was impolite in the relations between Secretary Christopher and Syria, is without any foundation," Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa said.

"The secretary is always welcome in Damascus," he declared in an unusual public statement at the airport.

Mr. Christopher's reply indicated waning patience.

"Every day that goes by runs a risk for civilians on both sides of the border," he said. "I hope the parties come to a very prompt resolution."

All day Wednesday, Israeli warplanes struck across southern Lebanon for the 14th day. A buildup of Israeli armor and troops was reported along the border with southern Lebanon.

A French official in Damascas, meanwhile, said a cease-fire agreement in Lebanon was near, noting that Iran's foreign minister had assured French mediators that Tehran was "sending signals" to Hezbollah guerrillas to accept a truce.

Mr. Christopher and Mr. Assad discussed the U.S. cease-fire plan with suggested Israeli changes. As soon as the talks ended, Mr. Christopher left Mr. Assad's palace for a 55-minute drive in a heavily guarded motorcade into Lebanon's heartland, the Bekaa, to meet with Prime Minister Hariri and the Parliament speaker, Nabih Berri.

"The United States is taking the necessary steps to help end the fighting," Mr. Christopher said at a joint news conference in Shura, a market town in the Bekaa where the meeting took place in a hotel. "Difficult problems remain. We're working to solve them," he said.

"There are some points that have to be clarified and we expect an answer soon," Mr. Hariri said. He did not elaborate.

Mr. Christopher left after dark for Damascus, from where he was to fly later to Israel. *(Reuters, AP)*

REBEL: *Chechens Vow to Press Fight*

Continued from Page 1

Kuchciak said. "He is a leader who already enjoys and will enjoy support of his field commanders."

As for the Chechen rebels, they said in a statement Tuesday that Mr. Dudayev's death had made them even more determined to fight the Russians.

Akhmed Zakayev, an aide to Mr. Dudayev, appeared on Russian television Wednesday night to say the rebels would insist on full independence and the complete withdrawal of Russian troops.

Even so, there was speculation that they would eventually falter without the unifying leadership of Mr. Dudayev, who had become a symbol of Chechen resistance.

"I think the field commanders will launch more-active military actions against federal troops, at least for some time," said Magomed Sultanov, the deputy head of administration of the Urus-Martan district where Mr. Dudayev was believed to have been killed.

But he said that Mr. Dudayev's death might eventually undercut the rebels.

"Next I think they will get more involved in the power struggle," he said. "But eventually, I hope that financial support of Dudayev from abroad will stop. There is hope that the conflict will gradually subside."

RETAIL: *New U.S. Selling Methods Stagger European Merchants*

Continued from Page 1

across Europe. Toys "R" Us has 202 stores in Europe, and Blockbuster Video, part of National Amusements Inc., has 764. Walt Disney and the Warner Brothers unit of Time Warner are opening European stores as fast as they can find sites.

For American merchants, the main lure is "anticipation of stagnation in America," said Joseph H. Ellis, a retail analyst at Goldman, Sachs in New York.

For European merchants, the result is huge upheaval. Few Americans may realize it as they browse the tiny boutiques off the Via del Corso in Rome or the Boulevard Haussmann in Paris, but in the last 10 years the share of women's clothing sold through independent retailers in Italy has dropped to two-thirds, from three-quarters, while the share sold at chains and low-price outlets has surged. In France, the independents' share has dropped to a third, from half.

Despite trying to defend themselves by, say, forming purchasing consortiums, small retailers are being swept away by chains like Hennes & Mauritz of Sweden and Zara of Spain or hypermarkets like those run by Carrefour of France. Increasingly, American chains are profiting from the upheaval.

The Americans do not have it easy. Since malls are still rare, chains like the Gap must bid for high-rent sites on city streets.

In the United States, the Gap opened 59 of its Old Navy stores in the first year of that venture; in Britain, it took 10 years to open that many Gap stores.

Retail experts hope the American influence will result in higher productivity and, ultimately, lower prices, increased sales and new jobs.

"I suspect that if Europe is serious about unemployment it will develop its service industries, as in the United States and even in Britain, and one way is to get better at retailing," said William Cullum, an analyst at Paribas Capital Markets in London.

GERMANY: *Kohl to Seek Cuts Despite Unions*

Continued from Page 1

"The government has shown it is in no mood to compromise and did not back down. In that sense it's probably a good thing," said Holger Schmieding, an economist at Merrill Lynch in Frankfurt.

If the government eventually backs down, or waters down its reforms as it did two months ago on pension reforms, it could further undermine the dormant economy by sending a signal of inaction, economists warn.

Tuesday's talks were the third this year to bring labor and industry leaders into Mr. Kohl's office to sort out compromises on the "Alliance for Jobs," a Kohl-backed initiative meant to stimulate the economy, make Germany attractive for investment and manufacturing, and attack the unemployment crisis.

From the start, the "alliance" was meant to be a consensus project that the nation could rally behind. The first "Chancellor summit" on Jan. 23 yielded an inexact outline for the "alliance," which has met stiff opposition. Mr. Kohl's refusal to back down comes after he already has abandoned a plan to delay the July 1 creation of a nursing care insurance fund.

"At the moment, I see absolutely no basis for any further Chancellor summits," said Klaus Zwickel, head of the giant IG Metall metalworkers union, who attended the meeting.

The unions objected that the measures would not lead to new jobs.

ESCORTS & GUIDES

BELGRAVIA ORCHIDS
LONDON PARIS CANNES GENEVA
Escort Agency Credit Cards Welcome
Int'l Travel Service Tel. London
0171 589 5237

INTERNATIONAL TOUCH
Executive International Escort Service
HEAD OFFICE LONDON
0171 266 1033
SERVICE WORLDWIDE

"CHIC INTERNATIONAL" & "EUROPEAN MODEL" OF LONDON JOIN TOGETHER TO MAKE
ATLANTIC MODELS
TOP EUROPEAN FASHION MODELS
INTERNATIONAL ESCORT SERVICE
EUROPE USA MIDDLE EAST ASIA
SIMON: 00 44 (0) 181 673 0045
KERSTIN: 00 49 221 972 38 24

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFIED

SABLE INTERNATIONAL
LONDON ESCORT SERVICE
0171 938 4445
MONTE CARLO CANNES ANTIBES
LONDON PARIS VIENNA MUNICH
CREDIT CARDS WELCOME

EUROPEAN MODEL ESCORT SERVICE
Reservation Top Models WORLDWIDE
PARIS + LONDON + ROME + MILAN
BRUSSELS + OSLO + STOCKHOLM
MONACO + GERMANY + AUSTRIA
GENEVA + ZURICH & throughout
MIDDLE EAST, ASIA, U.S.A.
Office: + + 431 799 2158 all cards

INTERNATIONAL ESCORTS
Service - Worldwide
Tel: 212-765-7896 New York, USA
Major Credit Cards Accepted

• • ZURICH EMMANUELLA • •
Escort Service
Credit cards accepted
Tel: 01 361 53 56

GLAMOUR INTERNATIONAL
LONDON ESCORT SERVICE
0171 724 0971

ELITE Escort Service
NEW YORK CITY
1-800-464-6667

CHELSEA ESCORT SERVICE
51 Beauchamp Place, London SW3.
Tel: 0171-584 6513

VIENNA • PARIS • COTE D'AZUR
ZURICH • GENF • HIGH SOCIETY
International Escort & Travel Service
Vienna + + 43-1-535 41 04 all cards
• GENEVA PRETTY WOMAN
BASEL, LAUSANNE, MONTREUX
Call 022/346 00 89 Escort Agency
• ZURICH LUZERN 01/4632334

MILAN • ROME • FLORENCE • PARIS
BOLOGNA • COTE D'AZUR • MADRID
LUGANO • LONDON Escort Service.
Tel: 39/(0)348 220 1862 Credit Cards

• VIENNA • PARIS • RIVIERA • MILAN •
GENEVA • ZURICH • BERLIN • ROME
EUROCONTACT Int'l Escort & Travel
Service. Call Vienna + 43-1-212 04 31

• PARIS & LONDON • Cote d'Azur
EXCLUSIVE, ELEGANT & EDUCATED
Escort Service London (171) 394 5145

MORRISON CLUB - VIENNA ESCORT
Service. S. Rechte Wienzeile 2a.
0222/586 86 84

BOND & TAYLOR ESCORTS
Based in New York/Atlanta.
Telephone: 212-290-8963

AMSTERDAM BERNADETTE
Escort Service & Dinner Dates.
Tel. 631 43 36 or 631 04 43.

• • • • MADRID • • • • •
TAO ESCORT SERVICE
BEFORE MIDNIGHT. Tel. 316 10 92

• • EXECUTIVE CLUB • •
LONDON ESCORT SERVICE
TEL: 0171 722 9008 Credit Cards

JAPANESE / CHINESE / THAI
ESCORT SERVICE
LONDON 0171 725 3314

GENEVA • • • NATASHA
Escort Service.
Tel. 022 / 920.14.50

MUNICH • WELCOME
ESCORT & GUIDE AGENCY.
CALL 089-91 23 14 or 0172-970 1643

AMSTERDAM • DREAMS • ESCORTS
dinner date service for Him and Her.
+31 (0)20-64 02 111 / 64 02 666

FRANKFURT-WIESBADEN-MAINZ
• • • Gaby's Escort Service • • •
069-252520 & 0171-5311805

FRANKFURT / MAIN
Exclusive Escort Service
069-6031809 + 0172-9101805

GENEVA • • • PARIS
BUTTERFLY Escort Service
Tel 022 / 731 90 81

BLACK BEAUTY ESCORT SERVICE
LONDON HEATHROW GATWICK
TEL: UK 0181-906-8082 CREDIT CARDS

PRAGUE • • VIENNA • • ALL AUSTRIA
Vienna's Best Escort Service, all cards.
Call Kennedy's team + 43-1 533 3044

• FRANKFURT •
High Class Escort Service
Tel. 069/61 08 66

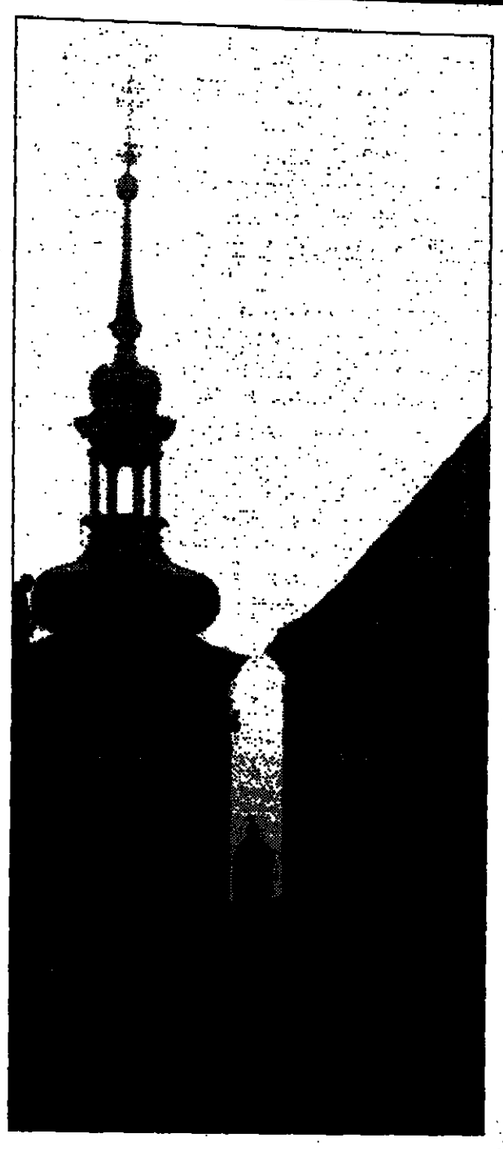
• • • • • MADRID HARMONY • • • • •
EXCLUSIVE top Escort Service. English
Tels 34 1 386 35 88 OR 908 81 89 64

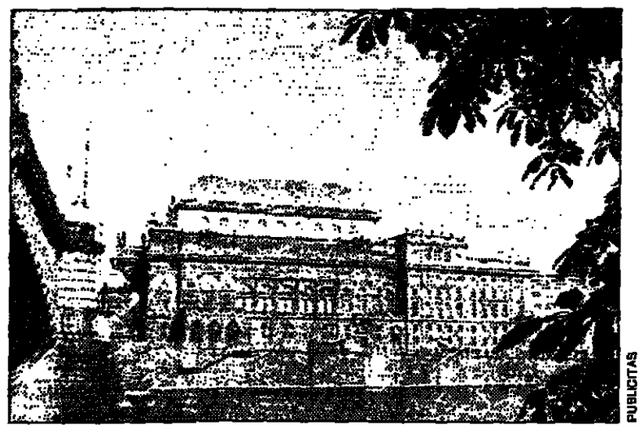
FRANKFURT & AREA
Maria's Escort Agency.
Please Call 069 - 597 66 66.

WILD SWAN
London oriental Escort Service
Tel: 0468 144005

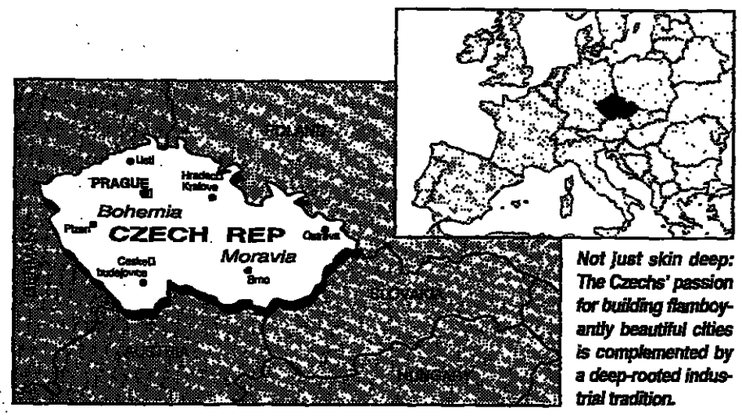
SAUL
MALE MODEL ESCORT SERVICE
LONDON 0402 285 104

• • MUNICH • BAVARIA • •
ESCORT-GUIDE-Dinner Date-Service
Tel/Fax 08192/1630 & 0172/8517779





THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Not just skin deep: The Czechs' passion for building flamboyantly beautiful cities is complemented by a deep-rooted industrial tradition.

IN A WORD

INTERVIEW WITH VLADIMIR DLOUHY, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE

Born in 1953, Vladimir Dlouhy earned an MBA from the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium) in 1978. During the following decade, Mr. Dlouhy lectured in econometrics at the Prague School of Economics, did research at the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and was a founding member of the country's Institute of Forecasting. In 1989, Mr. Dlouhy was one of the seven Civic Forum representatives (led by Vaclav Havel) who formed the country's post-"Velvet Revolution" government. After serving as the last chairman of Czechoslovakia's State Planning Commission, Mr. Dlouhy founded its successor, the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Since the establishment of the Czech Republic, Mr. Dlouhy has been its minister of industry and trade.

All of the Czech Republic's economic figures are highly positive, with the notable exception of your country's trade deficit. What are the causes of this deficit, and what are its remedies?

Let's first put this deficit in its historical and statistical contexts. In 1993 and 1994, our imports and exports were pretty

Continued on page 13

PROSPERITY WOES: TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING?

After three years of impressive growth, the Czech Republic tackles the problems of success.

In several key ways, the Czech Republic's economy is an exception in Europe. In many of the continent's economies, gaping public sector deficits have become the norm – and reducing them has become the object of frenzied, frustrating efforts. In 1995, for the third successive year, the Czech government spent less than it took in tax revenues. This surplus was caused by a mix of no-frills budgeting – a hallmark of Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus's regime, now in its fourth year – and by the strong economic growth it helped produce.

Bearable tax loads

The Czech Republic's gross domestic product grew at a 5 percent rate in 1995, a figure well beyond the reach of nearly all countries in Western Europe. A major factor contributing to this growth, forecast to amount to a surging 6 percent in 1996, has been the country's bearable tax loads.

As West European countries struggle to reduce their cumulative tax levels to less than 40 percent of total individual income, the Czechs have maintained a 26 percent rate – on par with that of Japan and the United States. The Czech Republic's three years of economic growth have had a major and positive impact on its 5.2 million gainfully employed citizens and the 1.3 million companies and professional firms producing the growth. The country's average household consumption rose by 6 percent in 1995. Gross capital formation far outpaced that, rising at a 15 percent rate.

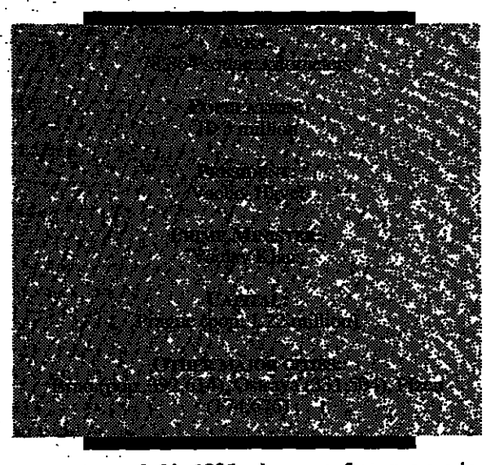
International confidence

In addition to tight budgeting, the government has engendered this growth by steadily formulating and implementing "open market" policies, winning the confidence of international investors and rating agencies in the process.

Today, after four years of step-by-step deregulation, the Czech crown is completely convertible for all intents and purposes. Wages have been freed from the past's constraining schedules. Locally based companies are free to maintain accounts and to operate in the major currency of their choice. Foreigners have unimpeded access to all Czech assets, with the partial exception of land ownership – always a sensitive issue in any small European country.

Thanks to these policies and the economic track record of its companies, the Czech Republic was the first of the Central and East European (CEE) countries to be granted admission to the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, and the first to receive a grade A rating from Standard & Poor's.

These moves further bolstered investor confidence in the Czech Republic – with highly visible results. The $2.56 billion in foreign direct investment recorded in 1995 was up 200 percent over the previous year's total and represented an all-time high for the country. Over the past three years, the country has secured $5.8 billion in investment, the second best figure in the entire CEE region.



Even the Czech Republic's problems and shortcomings are very easy to understand. In 1995, the country found itself with a prosperity-caused trade deficit, which is now moderating. This $3.8 billion deficit was more than counterbalanced by the $2.3 billion and $3.5 billion surpluses in the country's invisibles and long-term capital accounts.

In line with its "anti-Keynesian" approach, the Klaus government has refrained from making large-scale investments to alleviate the country's widespread environmental and infrastructural problems. The government's reliance on private sector initiatives to do so seems to be paying off.

Success stories

With industrial output up 10 percent in 1995, many of the country's prospering manufacturers are investing a portion of their increasing revenues in installing environmental protection systems and remedying environmental damage. One example is Kaucuk, a.s., the country's 10th largest manufacturer and one of the most successful of the country's restructured industrial companies.

Located to the north of Prague, Kaucuk recorded significant rises in turnover and profit in 1995. Turnover increased by 10 percent, to 16.86 billion koruny ($610 million). Some 65 percent of its increasing sales are recorded abroad, with the company's newly developed styrene plastics and butadiene elastomers proving highly popular with international plastics producers.

While increasing its sales and output, Kaucuk has been slashing its consumption of natural resources and amounts of emissions over the past five years. In one of many examples, the pumping of hydrocarbons into the external environment has been cut by 97 percent. To achieve these improvements, Kaucuk has increased its annual investments in environmental protection tenfold.

The Klaus government recently announced the launching of billion-dollar rail and road system improvement and expansion programs. Characteristically, these programs are built around financing and expertise supplied by the private sector.

The private sector's prosperity has forestalled another major problem: unemployment. In 1995, another 70,000 jobs (net) were created in the Czech Republic, mostly in the service sector, keeping the country's rate of unemployment at 2.9 percent – second in Europe only to Luxembourg.

Complex and corporate

Although the corporate sector's results are easy to read, it is difficult to understand who actually owns the Czech Republic's thriving corporate community. The companies' complex ownership structures are a legacy of the privatization process, which transferred – at least nominally – 80 percent of the country's corporate assets (2,260 major enterprises and some 130,000 smaller ones) to the private sector.

This transfer was nominal because the 450 investment funds now holding major equity stakes in most companies are themselves often partially or entirely owned by the country's banks, in which the public sector often has a major interest.

Although varying in its individual makeup, ownership is almost always highly varied. Take Kaucuk: About two-fifths of its equity is held by a major petroleum-products company, a quarter each by investment funds and the Czech National Property Fund, and the rest by private investors (who acquired their shares through the privatization process's coupons-for-shares program) as well as by local and national governments.

"Actually, by Western standards, that's not so very complex," says Miroslav Nevosad, the company's managing director.

He adds: "We've never had any problems finding a consensus on how to reposition and restructure the company."

Terry Swartzberg

HIGH-PROFILE EU BID FOR LOW-KEY NATION

On Jan. 23, 1996, in a glare of television cameras and flash bulbs, Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus formally submitted the country's bid for accession to the European Union. Fittingly enough, the venue for this highly publicized bid was Rome, no stranger to hype and high life.

Neither the nature nor the timing of the move surprised analysts. The EU is now busy deciding which of the 12 current candidates will be placed on the fast track for accession. Of the 12, the Czech Republic, along with Malta and Cyprus, is widely regarded as having the best credentials.

What was surprising was the way the Czechs made their move. "Up until then, the Czechs had preferred to work behind the scenes, to let the facts speak for themselves," says a Hungarian expert on international policy. "Now all this publicity and drama!" **T.S.**

GGK

The heart of Europe has two chambers. We are at home in both of them

Arguments exist as to whether
the geographical heart of Europe
lies in the Czech Republic or Slovakia.
Československá obchodní banka
has branches in both republics.
We've been in business here for over 30 years
and now represent more than two-thirds
of all foreign investors in the Czech Republic.
We can represent you too.

ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ OBCHODNÍ BANKA, A.S.

Prague Bratislava Frankfurt am Main Chicago London Moscow Paris

SPONSORED SECTION

CZECH REPUBLIC

PERFECT PUZZLES

In an apparent paradox, the proverbially self-deprecating and restrained Czechs have built some of the world's most flamboyantly beautiful cities, and they have created some of the world's most splendid works of art. In fact, many of these artistic masterpieces have been created in or inspired by the cities themselves. Take Cesky Krumlov: With 15,000 inhabitants, it is much smaller than Prague – but by no means less attractive.

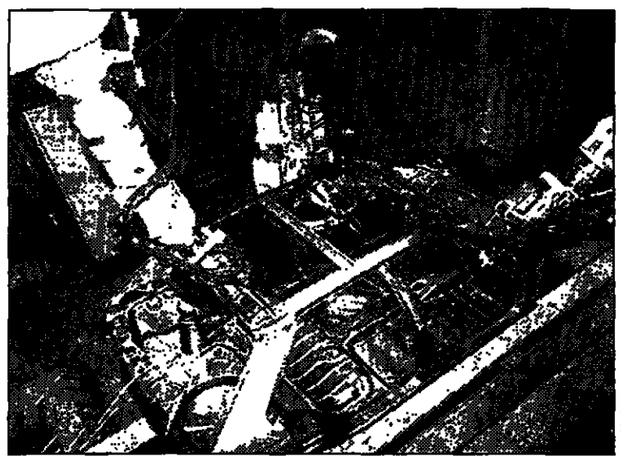
Every year, hundreds of thousands of people come to this southern Bohemian town, visiting such sites as the Schiele museum and marveling at the town's interplay of riverine loops and multileveled walkways and palaces.

The Schiele museum contains many of the wonderfully idyllic renditions made by Egon Schiele (1890-1918) of his home town.

Or take Litomysl, Hukvaldy, Policka and Nelelahozeves. Like Cesky Krumlov, these towns and villages feature wonderfully harmonious ensembles of medieval buildings and squares. These communities were also the homes and places of inspiration of famous artists: Bedrich Smetana, Leos Janacek, Bohuslav Martinu and Antonin Dvorak.

The explanation for the paradox? "The Czechs have always had an intense attachment to their country, an attachment denied political expression during the long centuries of foreign domination," says Jan Jirasék, one of the Czech Republic's foremost composers. "This attachment was forced to manifest itself in other ways, in works of architecture and art." **T.S.**

Cesky Krumlov: smaller than Prague, but not less attractive.



Building automobiles: Czech companies are finding growth markets for their products in Asia and the former Soviet Union.

INDUSTRY ON THE REBOUND

For all its beauty, the Czech Republic has always been an industrial country.

Inevitably, Czechs will point out that during the glory days of the First Republic (1918-1938), they had the world's 10th largest industrial base. But the intervening half century was anything but glorious. For 40 years, under communist rule, Czech industry was isolated from market forces and produced mainly for the Eastern bloc, to meet quotas established by central planners. What they produced was not shoddy – the Czechs' deep-rooted industrial tradition prevented this – but there was little to stimulate technical innovation. As a result, Czech industry became bloated and inefficient. Since 1989, Czech industry has struggled to regain its competitive edge. The going has been rough, but today some Czech companies are beginning to find some measure of success.

Industrial giant

If there is a single Czech company that exemplifies the country's thoroughly industrial nature, it is the engineering giant Skoda Koncern of Plzen. Skoda produces everything from turbines, locomotives and nuclear power plants to gear boxes and trolley buses.

And no man better exemplifies this industrial heavy-hitter than its chief executive, general director and 20 percent owner, Lubomir Soudek. If Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus is the engineer of the Czech economic transformation, Skoda and Mr. Soudek are surely the engine.

By late 1992, Skoda was at the bottom of its fortunes. Its markets had vanished, and the company was mired in debt and unable to meet operating costs. The board of directors had all resigned after the government refused their request for a bailout.

When the government offered a 34 percent stake in the company to anyone who could provide the best recovery package, Mr. Soudek stepped in. Working in partnership with two Czech banks, he presented an ambitious plan that involved debt-for-equity swaps, restructured loans and cash advances for wages.

Mr. Soudek talked the government into canceling Skoda's debts to the state banks; at the same time, he got them to cover an almost equal debt for locomotives that the state railway had ordered but could not pay for.

Keys to success

Mr. Soudek slashed Skoda's work force and management staff, farmed out production to more efficient sub-suppliers, quickly began putting together joint venture agreements with Western companies (including General Electric and Brown and Root) and found partners in China, India and Vietnam. Mr. Soudek sought out new customers as well.

At the same time, he began putting together new deals with old customers in Russia. Mr. Soudek knew that there was still money to be made there; it was mainly a question of finding partners who could pay.

In many ways, the relative success experienced by other Czech companies follows Skoda's pattern. While many are finding some new markets and partners in the West, more often the real key to success lies in tapping the Asian market and cautiously returning to the country's historic markets in the former Soviet Union.

The Third Wave

As the primary architect of the Czech economic transformation, Prime Minister Klaus insisted on wasting little time in privatizing state-owned industries. Through his system of coupon privatization, Czech citizens become stockholders.

This privatization process was carried out in two waves, beginning in 1992, and has been largely completed. Now the unofficial "Third Wave" is taking place as companies either still owned by the National Property Fund or by banks are sold off.

The transformation process is not yet complete. Many companies are still fighting to break free of their economic morass, and the wave of bankruptcies is only now getting under way, but it is clear that Czech industry is beginning to reclaim its place in the world economy.

Brendan McNally

SPOTLIGHT

Good News for Railroads

After languishing for years, the Czech Republic's railroads are finally being transformed and modernized. With almost no money invested in upgrading the rail system, the quality of Czech Railroad's equipment has dropped to alarming levels since 1989. In March, the Czech government took its first steps to reverse this decline when it approved a plan for restructuring the Czech railway company Ceske Drahy. According to Transport Minister Vladimir Budinsky, the new plan intends to halt the railway's declining productivity by mid-1997 and to increase its efficiency by 1999.

Along with the plans to sell off surplus and uneconomic tracks and routes, there are numerous modernization projects planned and under way. The largest is for the modernization of the railway corridor connecting Poland with Austria from Breclav to Petrovice u Karvine. This will include electrification, new tracks, beds and switching equipment, and new trains to operate on the corridor. The cost of modernizing the whole corridor will be about 24.5 billion koruny ($99.74 million), according to Michal Ruzicka, Czech Railway spokesperson. Financing is being provided by government, domestic and foreign banks, along with the European Union's PHARE program. **B.M.**

SOPHISTICATION NOT LIMITED TO FORTUNATE AND FOREIGN

The Czech Republic enjoys widespread use of sophisticated banking services.

By any of the objective indicators available, the Czech Republic's financial sector is the most highly regarded among those in the Central and East European (CEE) region.

One reason for this approbation is the sophistication and widespread use of banking services in the Czech Republic. In most CEE countries, payment by cash is still the norm, with the use of ATMs, checking accounts, credit cards and monthly transfers of wages into personnel bank accounts restricted to the "fortunate and foreign few."

Not so in the Czech Republic. The credit and bank-debit card has become an indispensable item of daily use for the country's burgeoning middle class.

Europe's banker of the year

Another reason is the high reputation enjoyed by the Czech National Bank, especially by its president, Josef Tosovsky. After being named "Central Banker of the Year" by Euromoney in 1993 and "Europe's Manager of the Year" by Europe's association of newspapers in 1994, Mr. Tosovsky was recently dubbed "Europe's Banker of the Year 1995" by a group of leading international economic journalists.

These kudos have stemmed from the CNB's achievements in improving the country's fundamentals. The rate of inflation is now around 9 percent. The country's gross foreign-exchange reserves, which doubled in 1995, and its banks' providential reserves and customer deposits have been showing sharp rises.

The praise has also stemmed from the CNB's skill in defusing and limiting the credit crunch, bank collapses and other interrelated problems endemic to all of the CEE countries' financial sectors. These problems all have a common source. In the early 1990s, the region's reconstituted banks made a large amount of loans to local, restructured companies. To cover the high rates of inflation prevailing in all the region's economies, the banks charged very high rates of interest. The companies were unable to generate enough cash flow to service the loans. Faced with growing burdens of nonperforming loans, the banks stopped issuing "fresh money" – hence the capital crunch – or went under, forcing the government to rescue and recapitalize them.

While the Czech Republic has experienced its share of major banks getting themselves in hot water, these incidents have not been of the scale and scope of those in the "Switzerlands of the East."

Several Czech banks have been given capital infusions; others have merged or have been taken over at the CNB's behest as a way of consolidating their financial positions. An across-the-board recapitalization of the banking sector has not been necessary.

Four small banks were recently allowed to fail in the Czech Republic. The bankruptcies had been expected by the CNB, which has systematically formulated and enforced compliance with strict standards of capital adequacy and bank accountability. As the failures show, the CNB has not hesitated to accept the consequences of its actions.

Local business described the CNB's move as a "culling of the country's weak and noncredible banks" and the beginning of the CNB's "great shakedown," in which the number of Czech banks would be driven down from 55 to a more suitable 10 to 15. Pavel Kysilka, the CNB's vice governor, takes issue with these views.

"We're not trying to impose any vision of a proper or final size on the banking sector," he says, "but we are very determined to use the considerable means at our disposal to ensure that all of our banks are viable and that their operations are transparent to the outside world."

Big Four hold their ground

Another area of relative success for the Czech Republic's financial sector covers the thorny, related issues of foreign ownership of local banks and privatization. In several CEE countries, powerful foreign banks have muscled their way into a lion's share of the local banking business, cornering the market on blue-chip customers in the process.

Not so in the Czech Republic. While foreign-owned finance houses reportedly hold equity stakes in three-quarters of the country's banks, an equal amount of the country's banking business is transacted by the country's "Big Four" – Ceska sporitelna (the country's savings bank), Komercni banka, Ceskoslovenska Obchodni Banka and Investicni a postovni banka – all partially owned by the local public sector.

When will the oft-delayed final privatization of these banks take place? "As soon as the rapid pace of development – both within the banks and throughout the economy – has yielded the breadth of capital resources and entrepreneurial expertise required by the banks to compete successfully on national and international markets," says Mr. Kysilka. **T.S.**

AT LAST, SOMETHING TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Since 1989, free-market forces have transformed Czech communications.

Under communist rule, the average Czech had little choice when it came to television. There were two television stations, one of which was on only during the afternoons and evenings. Although the fare ranged from decent to horrible, clearly no one who ran the stations knew or cared about market share. There was no need to. Advertising existed, but as the conventional wisdom went in those days, no one would ever bother to advertise something unless it were not selling in the first place.

TV Nova

This changed completely following the return to democracy in 1989. Czech print and broadcast media has been fully transformed by the free market. The single best example is TV Nova, the first private Czech television station. Operated by the American media group CME, TV Nova began broadcasting in early 1994, offering a lively combination of dubbed American programming, movies, game shows and news.

The formula proved immediately successful, and the station has attracted an increasing number of Czech viewers over the past two years. At last count, TV Nova pulled in an audience share of 71.2 percent, giving it the highest single market share of any national terrestrial TV station in Europe.

Meanwhile, ratings for the two state-owned TV stations, CT1 and CT2, continue to fall. In last place, but gaining in popularity, is Premiera TV, a small regional commercial broadcaster operating around Prague. Its increase in popularity coincides with a growing increase in technical reach.

Waiting for a telephone

At the same time, the Czech telecommunications sector is also undergoing thorough modernization.

For years, the Czech telephone system has been among the worst in Europe, with much of its equipment dating to before World War II. The service was bad and subject to all-too-frequent breakdowns, and the operators and technicians were notoriously surly and unhelpful. The wait for home phones took years, sometimes decades, unless – according to a widely held belief – one was willing to pay a hefty bribe.

This began to change in 1995, when the Czech government awarded a much fought-over contract for managing SPT Telecom to TelSource, a Dutch-Swiss telecommunications consortium. In exchange for $1.45 billion in cash and management services, Telesource is receiving a 27 percent stake in SPT.

"The process of change will require a lot of energy and a lot of projects to [transform SPT into] a modern, high-quality, market-oriented operator in the next three to five years," says Bessell Kok, the new deputy head of SPT. "That transformation program includes a network development program, where we will attack the very long waiting list for residential customers. Clearly, we must treat this customer with respect. To go through that dramatic change will require killing bureaucracy, making decisions very quickly and taking risks, because without risks you can't change quickly."

B.M.

ATTENTION
COMPANY FOR SALE

Canning company, 75 years tradition, located in the western part of the Czech Republic

Property includes:
— 64 000 m2 of land
— registered trade mark MARILA (since 1929)
— main production building
— storehouses
— administration building

Company fully equipped for production of: jams, fruit compotes, stewed vegetable, canned meat, prepared meals, lemonade syrup, gherkins and candied fruit.

For further information please write to:
Marila Rokycany, a.s. v likvidaci
Plzeňská ul. 29
337 46 Rockycany
Czech Republic
or fax at 0042-181-4494

BVV **BVV Brněnské veletrhy a výstavy a.s.**
Brno Trade Fairs and Exhibitions Co.Ltd.

INTERNATIONAL FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS IN BRNO - APRIL - DECEMBER 1996

TECHAGRO ..... 30.4.-4.5.
International Fair of Agricultural and Forestry Machinery and Technology

VETEX ..... 30.4.-4.5.
International Veterinary Fair

CEPEX ..... 21.-23.5.
Central European Exhibition of Power Industries

AUTOTEC AUTOSALON TRUCK BRNO ..... 8.-13.6.
International Fair of Trucks, Transport, Car Supplies and Workshop Equipment (Press Day June 7)

PYROS-PYROMEETING ..... 8.-13.6.
International Fair of Fire Fighting Equipment and European Meeting of Firemen (Press Day June 7)

FOND-EX ..... 25.-28.6.
International Foundry Trade Fair

WELDING ..... 25.-28.6.
International Welding Engineering Fair

INTERNATIONAL BUILDING FAIR ..... 25.-29.6.

KABO ..... 21.-23.8.
Central European Fair of Footwear and Leathers are Spring-Summer '97 Collection

STYL ..... 21.-23.8.
International Fashion Fair

INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING FAIR ..... 16.-21.9.

SIMET ..... 1.-5.10.
International Workshop Fair

WOOD-TEC ..... 1.-5.10.
International Fair of Machinery, Equipment and Materials for the Wood Industry

INVEX-COMPUTER ..... 22.-26.10.
International Fair of Information Technology

MEFA ..... 6.-9.11.
International Fair of Medical Technology and Pharmacy

For detailed information:
BVV Brněnské veletrhy a výstavy a.s.
Brno Trade Fairs and Exhibitions Co.Ltd.
Výstaviště 1
647 00 Brno - CZ
Telephone: ++42 5 - 4115 1111
Telefax: ++42 5 - 4115 3070

bh securities a.s.
Member of the Prague Stock Exchange

WHERE DO YOU GO FOR INFORMATION ON THE PRAGUE STOCK MARKET?

TO BH SECURITIES OF COURSE PRAGUE'S PREMIERE BROKERAGE FIRM!

FOR A COPY OF OUR CURRENT "MARKET SUMMARY" OF RECOMMENDED ISSUES PLEASE CALL MR. ROBEK OR MR. TOMÁSEK

PH: (42 2) 21 892 223-4
FX: (42 2) 21 892 260

BH Securities a.s.
Prague, Czech Republic

"THE CZECH REPUBLIC"
was produced in its entirety by the Advertising Department of the International Herald Tribune. It was sponsored by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the City of Prague and the display advertisers.
Writers: *Brendan McNally in Prague, Terry Swartzberg in Munich.*
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: *Bill Mahder.*

CZECH CAPITAL MARKET INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

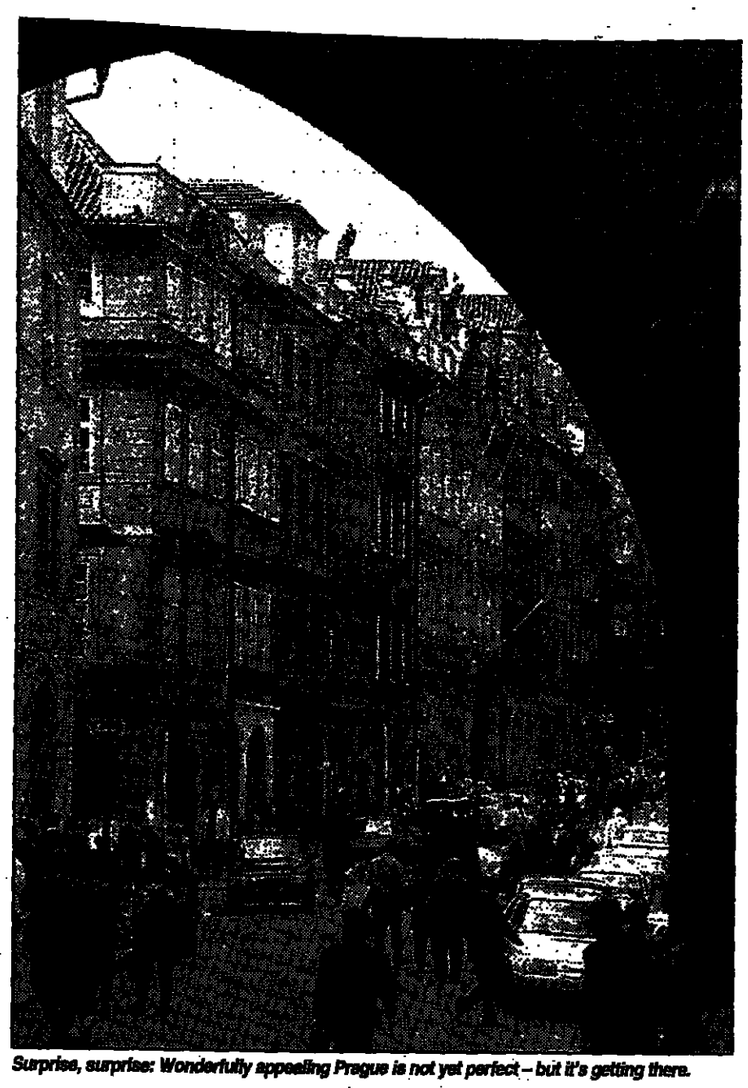
EVROBANKA a. s., *Czech bank and a member of the Prague Stock Exchange, facilitates:*

Investments into Government bonds with high debt rating: (A - S&P; BAA1 - Moody's), yield 9.1 - 9.7% p. a.
Interesting merger and acquisition opportunities in various sectors of the Czech economy
High-potential investments into local blue chips (telecommunications, banks, energy)

For further information please contact:
Roman JURÁŠ, *Dalibor* MÁTL *or Milada* PYTELOVÁ
EVROBANKA *a. s., Capital Markets Department*, Orli 17, 601 00 Brno, *Czech Republic*
Tel: 42-5-42216832; 42-5-42216831; Fax: 42-5-42216834; E-mail: *okt@eurob.cz*

SPONSORED SECTION

CZECH REPUBLIC



Surprise, surprise: Wonderfully appealing Prague is not yet perfect – but it's getting there.

PRACTICAL TASKS FOR PRAGUE THE BEAUTIFUL

To the relief of visitors, Prague now offers additional telephone and tourist information booths as well as more reliable taxis.

With well over 70 million visitors and 1.5 million international arrivals in 1995, Prague is one of the world's major tourist destinations, one that is growing at a soaring rate. But, as anyone looking for an honest taxicab driver or a functioning telephone in the city would be happy to tell you, Prague – while wonderfully appealing – is not perfect. Happily, quite a bit of progress is being made on rectifying Prague's deficiencies, according to Jan Koukal, the city's mayor.

"Many of these problems have been dealt with by the private sector, which has built and renovated hotels and opened up restaurants at a tremendous pace," he says. The statistics bear him out. Today, the city has 209 pensions and hotels, of which 24 belong to the four- and five-star category. Prague's restaurants are branching out, and the city's eateries now feature a wide variety of cuisines. The debate on which of the many aspirants has Prague's best Mexican buffet has been raging through the city's journals for the past few months.

Fast-growing culture

Culture is perhaps the fastest-growing area in the city's private sector. Or so it seems to a tourist walking down the Celetna toward the Charles Bridge. The visitor is deluged with handbills for classic, country and pop concerts, many of them privately organized. According to the Prague Post weekly, the city now has 105 venues for the performing arts, including the august Prague National Theater and the Laterna Magika theater of dance, mime and music.

Now in its 51st year, the Prague Spring Festival (May 12-June 2, 1996) traditionally provides an excellent opportunity to view many of the city's prime venues – including the Rudolphinum and the Spanish Hall in the city's palace – and much of the world's finest cultural offerings. In addition, an omnibus festival of music, art and other events has been taking place in Prague since the beginning of the year. The occasion is the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the city's National Gallery.

Help for tourists

"The public sector has also had a number of highly important responsibilities in the upgrading of Prague's tourist infrastructure," says Mr. Koukal. "Our main jobs have been to increase the accessibility and quality of information available to tourists, and to improve the links between Prague and the rest of the Czech Republic and between Prague and the outside world as a whole."

To that end, the city government has worked with local tourist authorities to set up four additional tourist information centers. At the city's urging, the country's telecommunications system has been steadily increasing the number of telephone booths in the city, which now has more than 4,500 of them.

To parlay Prague's appeal into a countrywide increase in tourism, the city government and various other local counterparts have joined together in establishing the "Route of the Castles" and other posted itineraries that start in Prague and link the country's major tourist attractions.

Common goals

Both the city's public and private sectors share a common set of goals: increasing the length of stay of Prague's visitors and securing the city an adequate share of tourism's "high end" business: conventions, congresses and incentive-related travel.

The city has already come a long way toward realizing its goals. According to Mr. Koukal, the average length of stay in Prague has increased from 2.3 to 3.9 days. By all accounts, post-revolution Prague has established itself as a prime incentive destination.

The city's high-end tourism sector is expected to experience a further jump once the 1 billion Czech koruny ($36.4 million) revamping of the city's Congress Center has been completed.

And the taxis? "As I've noticed in the course of my travels, unreliable taxi drivers are a species encountered in most of the world's cities," says Mr. Koukal. "By jawboning the cab owners and by monitoring the behavior of individual drivers, we've managed to improve the situation greatly in Prague." **T.S.**

USEFUL ADDRESSES

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Czech Republic
Ministry of Industry and Trade
Na Frantisku 32
CZ-110 15 Prague 1
Tel.: (42-2) 24 06 23 10
Fax: (42-2) 24 22 60 50

INVESTOR'S INFORMATION AND SERVICES:

CzechInvest
Czech Agency for Foreign Investment
Jan A. Havelka, chief executive
Politickych veznu 20
CZ-112 49 Prague 1
Tel.: (42-2) 24 22 15 40
Fax: (42-2) 2422 18 04

The City of Prague
Jan Koukal, mayor
Marianske nam. 2
CZ-110 01 Prague 1
Tel.: (42-2) 24 48 11 11
Fax: (42-2) 23 20 867

Czech Tourist Authority
Narodni 28
CZ-110 00 Prague 1
Tel.: (42-2) 211 05 111
Fax.: (42-2) 211 05 335

INTERVIEW WITH VLADIMIR DLOUHY, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE

Continued from page 11

much in balance. The trade deficit in 1995 amounted to 3.8 percent of total gross domestic product. That's still well within the range of acceptable results, especially as our country's overall balance of payments is under control, thanks to an inflow of foreign capital. Nor was the deficit caused by any weakness in exports, which rose 9 percent for the year.

In 1995's last quarter, the increase in imports abated, indicating that the problem will not be of an explosive nature.

A country in the process of rapid development – which is what the Czech Republic obviously is – has a great need for everything from raw materials to production equipment. This need cannot be entirely satisfied by local markets, themselves undergoing their own process of development. Hence a greater demand for imports.

And that is where the Czech government comes in. Rather than passing any laws or regulations configuring our country's patterns of international trade – doing so would be antithetical to our free-trade policies – we've been working to facilitate the development of our country's markets.

We've been working to assure that the suppliers, freight forwarders and traders forming these markets are provided with the requisite technologies, capital and managerial expertise so that they can operate without hindrance and with the utmost in efficiency.

Conventional wisdom sees the Czech Republic as now experiencing a wave of "real privatization." Formally privatized under coupon schemes, the country's manufacturers are now finally engaging in serious restructuring, often under new entrepreneurial ownership. Do you agree with this analysis of the situation?

Factually and analytically, it's not fully incorrect. As a glance at our industrial employment statistics shows, Czech manufacturers have been cutting up to 30,000 jobs a month in the period since 1990 as part of their restructuring efforts. Because these industrial workers have subsequently found employment elsewhere, our rate of unemployment has stayed very low. It now amounts to 2.9 percent.

Coupled with our surge in industrial output, now up 14 percent over the previous year's month, this "leaning down" has been behind the jumps in industrial productivity registered by our country. These rises indicate the basic fallacy in the conventional wisdom analysis: It is these very same companies, allegedly about to undergo urgently needed restructurings, that have manufactured the modern, competitively priced products selling so well on domestic and foreign markets.

'Newly founded, small-scale manufacturers are the prime product of our country's economic transformation'

My analysis is this: Rather than a single wave now belatedly breaking over all our companies, each of our companies has been engaged in its own, highly individual process of restructuring since the beginning of the revolution. And these waves, still very much ongoing, are producing companies exhibiting a wide variety of forms of ownership and patterns of operation. Of course, this process is not fully completed, and restructuring will take place in the future.

The [conventional wisdom] analysis also fails to take into account the prime product of our country's economic transformation: our newly founded, small-scale manufacturers, which registered a 20 percent increase in output in 1995, and which now account for 20 percent of our total industrial revenues.

Another tenet of conventional wisdom holds that your country's growth areas are located "anywhere near Prague and anywhere near Germany and Austria." What is your reaction to that?

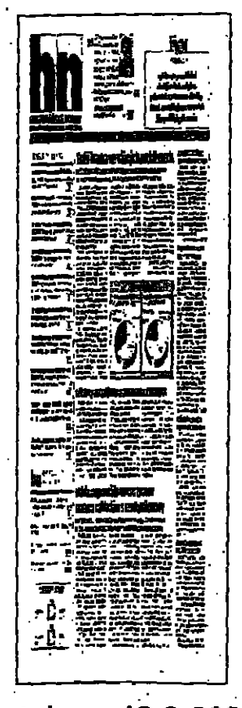
Because the Czech Republic is very compact, the term "near Germany and Austria and/or Prague" actually encompasses the whole country. Such putatively "remote" areas as southern and northern Moravia have long formed the heart of our industrial community. Their industrial facilities and expertise have constituted some of the country's most valuable assets. Properly reconfigured – something that is progressing well – these assets will make a major contribution to our national economy on a long-term basis.

Interview by T.S.

hn

Circulation 145 010
Readership 292 000

HOSPODÁŘSKÉ NOVINY
DENÍK PRO EKONOMIKU A POLITIKU



The only daily
Business Newspaper

Key to Business Communication in the Czech Republic

tel.: ++42 2 282 39 55 fax: ++42 2 282 36 83

IPB

INVESTIČNÍ A POŠTOVNÍ BANKA, a.s.

FROM HISTORY

Investiční a Poštovni banka, a.s. is one of the oldest Czech banks. It is the legal successor of Czech Kingdom Mortgage Bank (established in 1865) and the post-war Investiční Banka (Investment Bank). After the merger in 1994 with Poštovni Banka (established in 1882 as a Postal Savings House), the present Investiční a Poštovni Banka, a.s. was created to render its services through the densest network of branches and commercial locations at post offices in the Czech Republic.

PROFILE

- Universal commercial bank with a foreign licence
- 149 branches and 3,500 commercial locations at post offices throughout the Czech Republic
- 4,200 employees
- Network of 11 subsidiaries supporting the banking business
- The fourth largest bank in the Czech Republic measured by assets
- The third largest bank in the CR measured by loans
- One of the 100 largest banks in Europe
- More than 600 correspondent banks
- Member of S.W.I.F.T., member of the Prague Stock Exchange

BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

IPB, a.s. provides a complete range of banking services including payments and financial operations abroad. Its clients are offered more then 130 banking products and services. The bank has established 11 subsidiaries which belong to the Financial Group of IPB. Services are provided in the following areas: saving, leasing, accumulating money of private and legal persons in unit trusts, advisory activities, purchase and sale of real estates, insurance, export and import of goods, business representation, setting up joint ventures with foreign capital participation, market research, expert opinions, software products and other services.

INVESTIČNÍ A POŠTOVNÍ BANKA, a.s.
Senovážné nám. 32, P. O. BOX 819, CZ - 114 03 Praha 1
Czech Republic
Phone: 42/2/24 07 11 11
Telefax: 42/2/24 24 40 35, 24 24 42 74
Telex: 122 459 invb c, 121 445 invb c
SWIFT: INBA CZ PP
Telegram: INVESTBANK PRAHA

HEALTH/SCIENCE

Survival in Calamity: Men Finish Second

By Jane E. Brody
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Women have long known that they are not the "weaker sex," but a University of Washington anthropologist says he has proved it. It is not just that women live longer when the going is good. Women are also more likely than men to survive when conditions are at their worst, says the researcher, Dr. Donald K. Grayson.

Dr. Grayson believes that because women bear the children, biology has better equipped them to survive environmental challenges like cold and famine.

And it is hard to imagine much greater challenges than those faced by parties of migrating settlers stranded in winter in isolated mountain passes. Dr. Grayson has studied two such migrating parties to see just who lived and who died.

One was the infamous Donner party traveling by covered wagon from Illinois to California, when it was caught in the Sierra Nevada wilderness by a blizzard that struck Oct. 1, 1846.

Stranded in the mountains for six months, the 87 members of the Donner party tried all manner of survival tactics, eventually resorting to cannibalism as one by one their fellow migrants died.

Dr. Grayson examined the demographics of survival — how age, sex and family size may have influenced mortality among these travelers, 40 of whom never made it to their destination.

In a report published two years ago in the journal Evolutionary Anthropology, he said the oldest and the youngest members of the Donner party had the highest mortality rates.

"Young children have smaller nutrient and energy stores than do adults," he explained. "Older people are less responsive to cold and lose more heat through their skin." Accordingly, 83 percent of those over 50 died and 63 percent of those younger than 5 died before the remnants of the party were rescued.

Also not so surprising was the fact that people with big families had higher survival rates, presumably because they had a larger support system to keep them going emotionally as well as physically.

But most striking was that nearly twice as many men as women died — 57 percent of the 53 men as against 28 percent of the 34 women — and the men who died succumbed much more quickly than did the women. Furthermore, of those who tried to walk out of the mountains on snow shoes, all the men died and all the women survived, Dr. Grayson said in an interview.

"Women are simply better fit biologically to withstand cold and famine than men," Dr. Grayson concluded. "They are smaller, with 17 percent less body mass on average than men, so they need less food to survive," he added. "They have nearly twice the percentage of body fat — roughly 27 percent, whereas men have only 15 percent. And more of a woman's body fat is subcutaneous — right beneath the skin. It has a poor blood supply, which makes it an excellent insulator. If you put men and women out in the cold, the women will do better."

In a critique of Dr. Grayson's explanation for his findings, Dr. Christine Szuter, an archeologist and editor at the University of Arizona Press, said that, rather than evoking biological reasons, she would emphasize cultural factors like work patterns that might have been relevant to the women's superior survival.

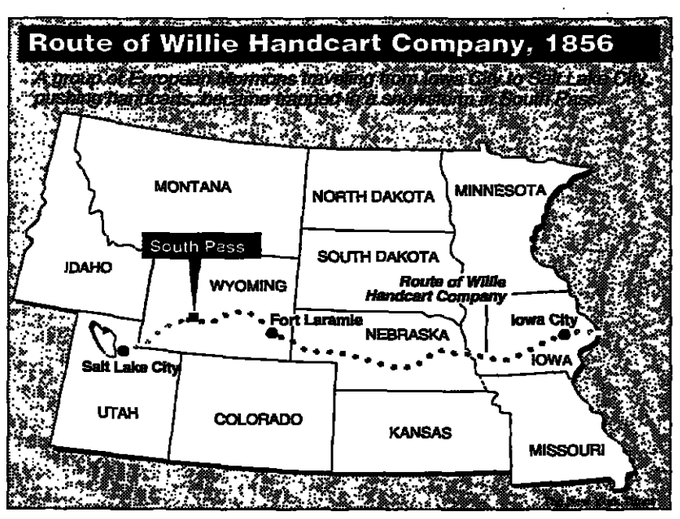
Partly in response to such comments, Dr. Grayson investigated the fate of another unlucky party of settlers. A decade after the Donner party's disaster, a little known troop of 429 Mormon immigrants from Europe — the Willie Handcart Company — set out from Iowa City in search of a better life in Salt Lake City, the center of the Mormon Church.

This group of men, women and children could not afford to ride in horse-drawn covered wagons. Instead, after a train trip to Iowa City, they began the trek to Salt Lake City pushing handcarts.

The many calamities that beset them group would make the plot of a grade-B movie. They included a delayed departure that placed them at the mercy of winter weather for which they had inadequate clothing; and a cattle stampede that left them with too few oxen to pull commissary wagons and resulted in added burdens for the handcarts and an inability to use their milk and beef cattle for food.

The pattern of mortality in this group was similar to that in the Donner party. "I found pretty much the same thing," Dr. Grayson said. "Although they were stuck for a much shorter time the death rate among the men was three times higher than among the women."

The anthropologist readily concedes that it is not just body size, body fat and fat distribution that favor female survival. "The men died because they were doing what they are biologically fit to do," Dr. Grayson said. "Characteristically," he added, "men take greater risks and do heavier work. The men in both parties did a lot of energy-requiring tasks — hunting, cutting down trees, etc. — which depleted their energy stores and put them at risk of an early death."



New, Puzzling Planets

By Kathy Sawyer
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Until last October, the challenge for astronomy was finding planets beyond the sun. Now the trick is explaining what astronomers have called the "puzzling panoply of planets and orbits" that is emerging. For example, the giant planet detected in the constellation Pegasus orbits so near its star that scientists were stunned it could exist there.

The discovery of a second planet in a similar orbit around a different star indicates that the first was no fluke.

Researchers theorize in the April 18 Nature that the first planet, a Jupiter-like gasball, was born 100 times farther from its star than it is today. Then, "in a million-year gravitational tug-of-war," the planet spiraled toward the star.

"We have said for years that planets can migrate toward their stars" during their formative years, said the team leader, Douglas N.C. Lin of the University of California at Santa Cruz. "The new part of the theory is that this migration could stop."

The rapidly spinning star could have provided a gravitational "kick" that canceled out the planet's inward spiral, Dr. Lin said, or the star's magnetic field could have cleared a space in which forces driving the planet's spiral no longer worked.

Europe Lags in High-Tech Advances, UN Says

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — UNESCO's World Science Report, published Wednesday, indicates that Europe is falling behind the United States and Japan in technological innovation, judged by the number of patents it receives.

Europe also spends less on research and development than either the United States or Japan as a proportion of gross domestic product.

The report is the second attempt by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to put world science under the microscope. It contains essays about the status of science, and contemporary issues by a number of specialists.

The introductory essay, by Francisco J. Ayala, professor of biological sciences and philosophy at the University of California at Irvine, is a plea for basic scientific literacy.

Understood as an everyday working knowledge of science, he said, it "is as necessary as reading and writing (literacy in the commonly understood sense) for a satisfactory way of life in the modern world."

Mr. Ayala said he did not expect lay people to have detailed scientific knowledge, but "a scientifically literate person would know that astrology is not a science, and that children are not born with stronger muscles just because their parents exercise in the gym."

Scientific literacy, he said, is as important as the knowledge of how to read and write for economic and social well-being and for the exercise of participatory democracy.

Another contributor, Noëlle Lenoir, a bioethicist and member of France's Constitutional Council, called for an urgent debate on the ethical issues raised by scientific advances. She said that the growing public distrust of science and technology was contributing to the growth of political and religious movements that reject modernity as "a symbol of the perverted modern world."

The figures about Europe's competitiveness occur in a global overview of science progress by Pierre Papon and Rémi Barré, respectively president and director of the Observatoire des sciences et des techniques in Paris.

The authors plotted a European decline over the years from 1987 to 1993, as rivals — including the emerging Asian economies — grabbed a larger share of the patents granted for scientific and technological innovations.

They said the EU countries held 18.6 percent of patents issued in the United States (compared with 25 percent for Japan). The United States held 27.3 percent of European patents compared with 20.9 percent for Japan.

As indicated by patents granted in Europe, "the EU countries have lost 9 percent of their share in six years, while the U.S.A. has gained 3 percent and Japan 29 percent," the authors said. Of patents granted in the United States, the U.S. share increased 5 percent and Japan's 11 percent. But Europe's share of U.S. patents declined 24 percent.

Judging scientific progress by comparing patenting figures gives a crude idea of a country's technological prowess. The method is flawed by the fact that companies do not always seek global protection by applying for patents outside their own markets.

It is unrevealing also about the way countries pay for their research. For example, 24 percent of research spending in the United States comes from military funds, compared with only 1.4 percent in Japan, where research is overwhelmingly paid for by industry. Europe, in contrast, depends more heavily on public civilian sources for research money, the authors said.

The comparison of patenting data shows Japanese strength in electronics, with more than 35 percent of the world share. The United States is strong in instruments and pharmaceuticals, and the Europeans are leaders in mechanical engineering and transport, with strong chemical and pharmaceutical sectors. The European decline in the electronics and electricity sector (down 17 percent) and instruments and optics (down 16 percent) had been particularly marked, the report said.

One reason for the decline could be the lower level of research spending in Europe compared to GDP. The authors estimated, on the basis of four-year old figures, that the United States and Japan each devoted 2.8 percent of GDP to research and development, compared with 1.9 percent in Europe.

ANOTHER contributor to the report — Leonid Gokhberg, deputy director of the Russian Center for Science Research and Statistics — warned that members of the Commonwealth of Independent States were jeopardizing their economic and social revival by slashing spending on research and development. Russia, for example, reduced science spending from 2.03 percent of GDP in 1991 to 0.81 percent in 1993; a level comparable to that of Iceland, and a downward trend that seems to be continuing.

A Bad Night's Sleep Can Spoil a Day

By Don Colburn
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A bad night's sleep not only causes daytime drowsiness but also affects mood, attention span and mental dexterity, a Scottish study suggests.

Researchers studied 16 people, half of whom had their sleep disturbed with a pulsing sound every two minutes during the night. The sound was not loud enough to awaken the sleepers, but it was enough to return them to a lighter stage of sleep, as measured by eye movements and electrical activity in the brain.

The study, conducted by a team from the University of Edinburgh, took place over two pairs of nights a week apart. The results were reported this month in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, published by the American Lung Association.

The 16 people were asked to rate their energy level, from vigorous to sluggish, and their degree of happiness, from depressed to contented, before and after each night. Both energy and happiness declined after a night of disturbed sleep.

The research subjects also underwent a series of performance tests to measure mental agility and attention span. The tasks took longer after a night of fitful sleep. And yes, the subjects also felt sleepier after a night of poor sleep; they found it harder to stay awake and easier to nap the next day.

The Edinburgh study was designed to study whether the effects of sleep apnea, a condition in which breathing stops repeatedly for a few seconds at a time during the night, are due to the lack of sleep or the lack of oxygen from breathing interruptions. Researchers said the findings also have implications for people whose sleep is frequently disturbed by pain.

An estimated 2 to 4 percent of the population has some form of sleep apnea. Those with severe apnea are continually awakened as they start breathing again after each interval of nonrespiration.

IN BRIEF

A Gene Linked to Allergy

MENLO PARK, California (Reuters) — Researchers at a California biotechnology company have found a variant of the C3 gene, which they say is linked to increased incidence of food allergies, heart disease and arthritis.

Stephen Peroutka, the founder, president and chief executive of Spectra Biomedical, said the research may lead to "a novel therapeutic approach to immune diseases."

Dr. Peroutka, who presented the findings at the Fourth Annual Nature Genetics conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, said the researchers found a variant of the C3 gene called C3F. Individuals with this variant were found to have an increased incidence of diseases, including nonrheumatoid arthritis, thyroid disease, hypertension with coronary heart disease and food allergies.

Clue to Ovarian Cancer

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Scientists in the United States say they have uncovered a new link between ovarian cancer and one of two genes that has been linked to breast cancer.

"A greater fraction of the ovarian cancer may be hereditary than previously suspected," Jeffrey Boyd of the University of Pennsylvania told a briefing at the American Association of Cancer Research's meeting in Washington.

Dr. Boyd said women with inherited mutations of BRCA2, the second gene linked to breast cancer, did not have a known family history of breast or ovarian cancer. But BRCA2 mutations were found in at least one in 20 ovarian cancers.

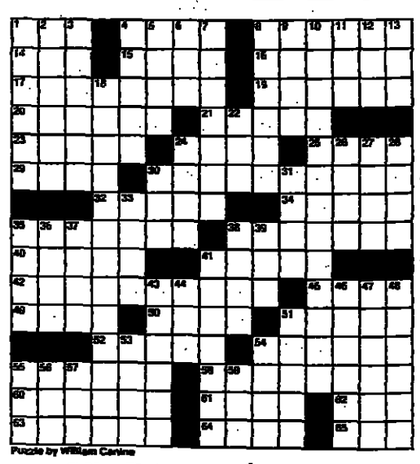
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Prospector's aid
4 Crawl, e.g.
8 Suddenly regain attention
14 "... —— quit!"
15 Soap bar
16 Kind of collision
17 Sleuth out
19 Relative of euchre
20 One's all
21 Automaton
23 1958 Edgar winner Rex ——
24 Ship, in poesy
25 Some Duchamp art
29 Chinese dynasty
30 Book and TV crime solver
32 Utility customers
34 Northern native
35 Historic launch
38 Suitcases
40 Like dogwood leaves
41 Stendhal hero
42 Crime solver from St. Mary Mead
45 Part of the U.S. arsenal
49 Linear
50 Twosome
51 Prefix with logical
52 Incorporate
54 Kind of note
58 Labiate
59 Tie
60 Beethoven's Third
61 Exhort
62 ——-Cone
63 Lizards
64 N.F.L., e.g., with "the"
65 Fabric measures: Abbr.

DOWN

1 Hardly given to exhibitionism
2 Awn
3 Detroit cager
4 Apollo 9 and 15 astronaut
5 Silent goodbye
6 Alibi ——
7 Big business doings
8 Reeking
9 "Well done!"
10 P. D. James's crime solver from Scotland Yard
11 Figure to shoot for
12 Small songbird
13 Bauxite, e.g.
18 Poe's pioneering crime solver
22 —— hill 'n' dale
24 "The King and I" actress
26 Cruising
27 McClure of "The Virginian"
28 A chip, maybe
30 Stew morsel
31 Old sorcerer
33 Florist's cutting
35 W.W. II leader
36 1985 Edgar winner —— Hunter
37 Wagon path
38 Lightning zigzag
39 Live
41 Step on the gas
43 Some gym gear
44 Groove
46 Coyly mannered
47 Name in a 1926 pact
48 Common inscriptions
51 Knots
53 Make out
54 When repeated, a Samoan port
55 French article
56 Exasperate
57 Luau fare
59 Fumble



Puzzle by William Canine

© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz

Solution to Puzzle of April 24

O	C	T	O		S	A	B	L	E		P	L	A	T
W	O	R	N		O	R	I	E	L		L	O	C	O
E	M	I	T		C	O	D	O	F	H	O	N	O	R
D	A	M	A	S	C	U	S			A	V	E	R	S
			R	T	E	S		S	A	L	E	R	N	O
C	A	V	I	A	R	E	M	P	T	O	R			
A	X	I	O	M			A	I	M		S	O	L	E
P	E	P		P	L	A	N	T	E	R		A	I	D
E	L	S	E		A	B	E			A	S	H	E	N
		N	A	M	E	T	H	A	T	T	U	N	A	
C	O	S	T	R	E	L		O	D	E	R			
O	P	T	I	C			T	R	A	D	U	C	E	D
P	E	R	C	H	S	W	I	N	G		D	O	Z	E
E	R	I	E		P	E	L	E	E		E	R	R	S
S	A	P	S		A	B	E	T	S		L	E	A	K

The Portugal Update

The Portugal Update is a series of sponsored pages that will appear in the International Herald Tribune through the fall of 1996. It is sponsored by:

AP-ANILINA DE PORTUGAL, SA
Quinta da Indústria
3860 Estarreja
Tel: 351.34.42226
Fax: 351.34.41303
Contact: Engº Clemente P. Nunes

ESTALEIROS NAVAIS DE VIANA DO CASTELO, SA
Apartado 530
Praia Norte
4901 Viana do Castelo
Tel: 351.58.828230
Fax: 351.58.828682
Contact: Engº António Duarte Silva

IAPMEI
Rua Rodrigo da Fonseca, 73
1297 Lisboa Codex
Tel: 351.1.3864333
Fax: 351.1.3863279
E-mail: m.henniques@mail.telepac.pt
Contact: Dr. Miguel Henriques

VULCANO - TERMO DOMESTICOS, SA
Estrada de Cacia Km 3.7
3800 Aveiro
Tel: 351.34.910299
Fax: 351.34.911071
Contact: Engº Mário Pais de Sousa

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY:

LABORATORIO ATRAL, SA
Av. Gomes Pereira, 104B
1500 Lisboa
Tel: 351.1.7155141
Fax: 351.1.7155053
Contact: Dr. Luis Martins

LABORATORIOS AZEVEDOS INDUSTRIA FARMACEUTICA SA
EN 117
2720 Alfragide
Tel: 351.1.4716211
Fax: 351.1.4717215
Contact: Dr. Thebar Miranda

LABORATORIO IBERFAR, SA
Estrada das Palmeiras, 50
2745 Queluz
Tel: 351.1.4354145
Fax: 351.1.4364762
Contact: Dra. Ana Maria Dias

MEDINFAR, SA
Rua Manuel Ribeiro de Pavia, Lt. 1-1
Venda Nova
2700 Amadora
Tel: 351.1.4748228
Fax: 351.1.4751736
E-mail: medinfar@ip.pt
Contact: Dr. João Pedro Almeida Lopes

PORTELA & Cia, SA
Rua João Oliveira Ramos, 87
4000 Porto
Tel: 351.2.5502333
Fax: 351.2.5502248
Contact: Dr. Luis Portela

TECNIFAR, SA
Rua Tierno Galvan, Torre 3, piso 13
1070 Lisboa
Tel: 351.1.3887616
Fax: 351.1.3879544
E-mail: tecnifar@mail.telepac.pt
Contact: Engº Luis Chaves da Costa

The next installment will deal with the Value Chain in Portugal. It will appear on Friday, April 26.

For a free copy of the first installment, which appeared April 11, 1996 and was devoted to medium and small-sized companies, please fax Bill Mahder, IHT Supplements on (33-1) 41 43 92 13.

Herald Tribune
THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Jotting Pad
iczkovits
tax free cars
Tel: 01/202 76 10
Fax: 01/202 76 30

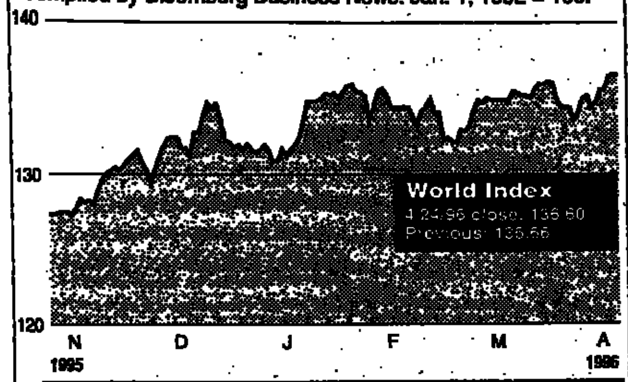
Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

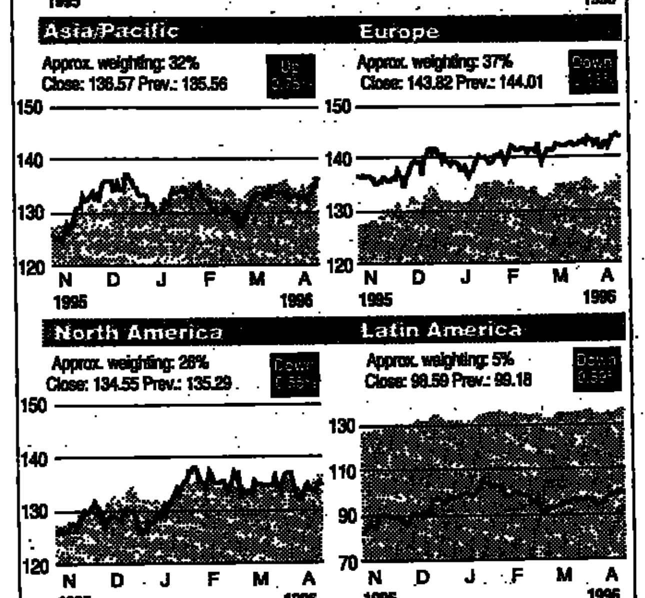
BUSINESS / FINANCE

**
THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1996

THE TRIB INDEX: 136.60

International Herald Tribune World Stock Index ©, composed of 280 internationally investable stocks from 25 countries, compiled by Bloomberg Business News. Jan. 1, 1992 = 100.





The index tracks U.S. dollar values of stocks in: Tokyo, New York, London, and Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Venezuela. For Tokyo, New York and London, the index is composed of the 20 top issues in terms of market capitalization, otherwise the ten top stocks are tracked.

Industrial Sectors

	Wed. close	Prev. close	% change		Wed. close	Prev. close	% change
Energy	141.96	142.22	-0.18	Capital Goods	146.45	146.43	+0.01
Utilities	130.32	131.43	-0.84	Raw Materials	162.43	163.03	-0.37
Finance	125.55	124.93	+0.50	Consumer Goods	141.03	141.56	-0.37
Services	125.65	125.59	+0.05	Miscellaneous	141.46	141.73	-0.19

For more information about the Index, a booklet is available free of charge. Write to Trib Index, 181 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly Cedex, France.

© International Herald Tribune

EU Blocks Merger in Platinum

Ruling Is Warning To Anglo-American

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — The European Commission's decision Wednesday to block a proposed merger between the platinum divisions of Gencor Ltd. and Lonrho PLC reflected the high degree of concentration in the global platinum market rather than a toughened European stance toward mergers, officials and analysts said.

Competition Commissioner Karel van Miert said the decision had been endorsed by South African authorities and should send a warning to Anglo-American Corp. against seeking to acquire market dominance. The South African mining conglomerate owns nearly 10 percent of London-based Lonrho and holds an option to buy the 18.4 percent stake held by Dieter Bock, Lonrho's chief executive. Gencor is based in South Africa.

The possibility that Anglo might exercise its option after a Lonrho-Gencor deal "would eventually lead to a complete dominance by Anglo-American, which would be completely unthinkable," Mr. van Miert said. He blamed the rejection squarely on the unwillingness of the companies to discuss divestitures or other measures to limit market concentration.

Mr. Bock said he was "puzzled" by the decision, adding that the proposed merger had elicited few complaints and would have had little direct impact on European consumers.

Under the proposed $2 billion deal, a combination of Lonrho's platinum division and Gencor's Impala Platinum would have controlled 28 percent of the world platinum market, just behind Anglo-American Platinum Corp.'s 35 percent, the commission said.

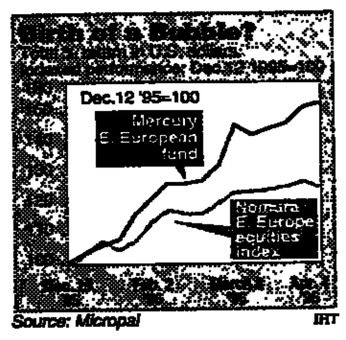
U.K. bars two planned mergers in electricity industry. Page 17.

Eastern Europe Passes First Test

Foreigners Still Hold Its Fate

By Erik Ipsen
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Late last year, when Mercury Asset Management Group PLC launched its first-ever fund targeting Eastern European stocks, its reasoning was both logical and extremely simple. The London-based manager of investment funds' increasing emphasis on equity plays throughout the region in 1995 for its four general emerging-markets funds had paid off handsomely, with gains of more than 40 percent.



Source: Micropal

IHT

"The region had been a big contributor to the outperformance of our funds last year, and we extrapolated that these markets still have a great way to go," said Irfan Janmohamed, co-manager of the new fund.

From Boston to Berlin, many fund managers reached the same conclusion at about the same time. So sudden and widespread was the shift in sentiment that analysts now talk about a wave of foreign cash cascading into East European stock markets in the first weeks of the year. The phenomenon drove stock prices in Poland and Hungary up roughly 50 percent in the space of two months.

The sudden rush of prosperity has now touched off a vigorous debate as to whether the region is witnessing the birth of another speculative bubble, as it did in 1993, or whether this time, prosperity will prove more durable and lasting.

Arguments for the markets' staying power currently dominate. They include the region's vastly improved economic and corporate performance and its growing record of political stability. Many economists predict that Hungarian growth will double to 4 percent this year and

See INVEST, Page 21

Improved Offers Keep Hopes Alive For Telecom Pact

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — With a deadline for concluding a global pact to open telecommunications markets less than a week away, Singapore raised hopes Wednesday that a deal could be reached when it joined several other developing countries in making a significantly improved offer.

Officials, however, said other Asian nations — including Malaysia, Indonesia, India and Thailand — might not make satisfactory offers, and the United States warned that without them no agreement could be reached.

"We are not going to buy into a one-sided deal with a lot of free riders," Jeffrey M. Lang, a deputy U.S. trade representative, said in an interview. "We couldn't defend it. We have to have some reciprocity."

Critics in the U.S. Congress and Republican Party argue that the President Bill Clinton is sacrificing American jobs and lowering living standards by opening American markets too readily to competitors.

The 51 members of the World Trade Organization have set Tuesday as a deadline for agreeing to a deal that would open up telecommunication industries worldwide.

Mr. Lang said the United States had offered to allow non-U.S. companies access to telecommunications services and investment as long as U.S. companies got similar opportunities in other big markets. He said Canada and the European Union had agreed at a recent meeting in Kobe, Japan, to improve their offers.

Mr. Lang was speaking on the opening day of an international conference on the future of the world trading system, jointly organized by the International Herald Tribune and the Singapore government's Trade Development Board.

Singapore, which like South Korea has become an exporter of telecommunications services, announced that it would open its basic market for local and overseas telephone calls to competition in 2002, five years ahead of its earlier offer. Argentina and Venezuela have also made new offers.

But Mr. Lang said that a number of important countries in Asia — one of the fastest-growing areas for telecommunications — had not made any offers.

Telecommunications in many developing and newly industrialized nations are run by local monopolies, either state-owned or private, that fear that hasty liberalization will expose them to competition by stronger rivals from developed countries.

Fiat Stalls in First Quarter After Doubling 1995 Profit

Bloomberg Business News

MILAN — Fiat SpA said Wednesday that higher costs and a stronger lire pulled pretax profit down almost 25 percent in the first quarter, to 464 billion lire ($300.5 million), after a year in which net profit at Italy's largest company had doubled.

Fiat, which makes cars, trucks, tractors and other industrial goods, said 1995 net profit soared to 2.147 trillion lire from 1.011 trillion lire in 1994, in line with most expectations.

But the company said pretax profit for the first quarter had been hurt by costs that grew faster than car prices, a stronger lira that reduced foreign-currency profits and lower profits in Brazil, its second-largest market after Italy.

"We knew about greater competition in Brazil, and we knew about the effect of the lira, but we didn't expect such a large drop," said Gianluca Pediconi, an analyst at Milla & Co. "We were definitely negatively surprised by the first quarter, and that is likely to lead many to revalue their expectations for this year."

Analysts had been widely expecting Fiat to make a profit of between 2.3 trillion lire and 2.4 trillion lire in 1996. The company gave few details about its expectations for the year in light of the first-quarter results, saying only that margins would improve as new models went on sale.

In the first quarter of 1996, Fiat said, sales rose 7.7 percent from a year earlier, to 20 trillion lire, but profit before taxes and financing charges fell to 2.5 percent of revenue from 4.4 percent. Fiat said it sold 605,000 cars in the first quarter, up 7 percent, with its share of Europe's market rising to 12.6 percent from 12.0 percent.

The company said it would raise its dividend to 100 lire per ordinary share from 50 lire last year. Its share price rose 90 lire, to 5,580.

INTERNATIONAL MANAGER

Western Managers Thriving in East

By Robert D. Gray
Special to the Herald Tribune

PRAGUE — As Europe's emerging markets continue to mature, expatriate managers from Western countries who have developed expertise in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland are finding their skills in increasing demand.

While some companies in these markets and other less developed ones are replacing expatriates with local talent, the so-called expat experts — Westerners who have relocated to Eastern Europe and developed special skills while living and working there — remain sought after for leadership roles in economic planning and corporate management. Many such executives have been elevated to regional and national-level management posts, applying their knowledge to various international projects.

Executive-search specialists say these managers are in demand because they have developed unique methods of problem-solving in less than ideal conditions, often proving to be more creative, flexible and adaptable than local managers or executives from the West who have spent no time abroad.

"We're obviously dealing with different business cultures and different countries, but we're dealing with the same business structure," said Jerome Ternynck, managing partner of Prague's Human/Accord Group, an executive-search concern. "It's always the same scheme of startups or restructuring with the same objectives, and somehow the same problems, even though there are big differences between each of the countries."

Many industry specialists agree that companies in Eastern Europe — even those expanding to another country within the region — often prefer to hire expatriate managers who have experience in their markets.

Mr. Ternynck said he often asked clients: "Why bring in a human-resources director from your home country when you can get one who has been, for the past three years, where you want to relocate? He's definitely going to be better than the one you bring in."

This is especially true in the more volatile Eastern markets such as Russia. Jonathan Hart, an associate with Korn/Ferry Carré/Orban International, another headhunting concern, spent two years recruiting for companies in Moscow.

Companies "had problems," he said, with expatriates coming in, "lasting three months and then looking to get out." They want "someone who knows Russian and doesn't mind living there," he said, "because it's a huge gamble when you bring someone in."

Headhunters say talented expatriates who have made personal investments in the region, such as learning language skills, marrying natives or transplanting families, remain prize catches.

Mr. Ternynck said these expatriates had "all the Western understanding, but all the local understanding as well — and that's what the companies are paying for."

Accord Group recently placed a 29-year-old American as general manager of a large U.S. information-technology concern in Russia. The candidate had been with the company for five years in Moscow, spoke fluent Russian and had a Russian wife. Expatriates with attributes like those are often given rare opportunities such as managing a multimillion-dollar multinational company.

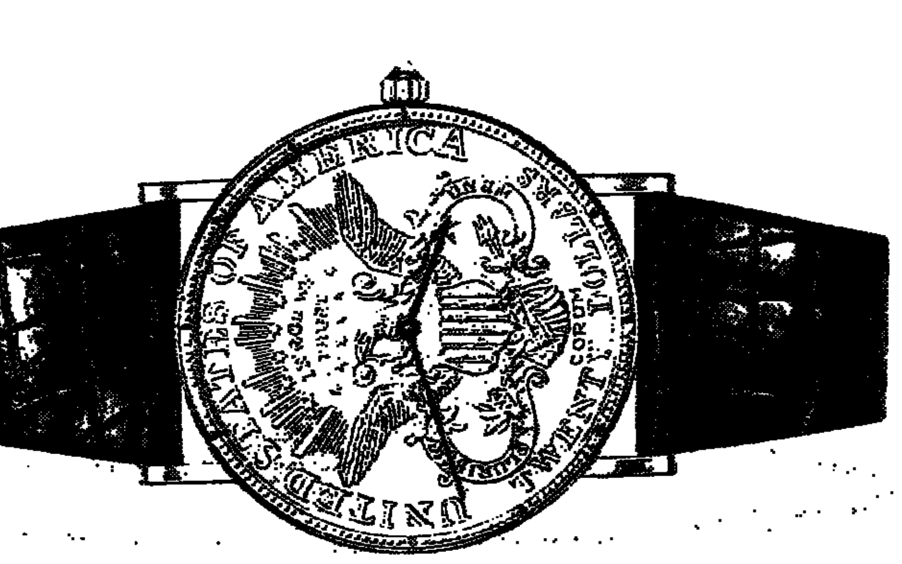
Christopher des Forges, a native of England, has been with Unisys Corp.'s Prague office since 1992 as a sales manager.

He said that while his value back in Britain may not necessarily be higher because of his experience here, he had gained "a tremendous education in terms of having watched an experiment in social economics."

Executive-search firms agree. Miroslav Debnar, managing director of Prague's Korn/Ferry office, said he was scouring Central Europe to fill positions in Vietnam and Africa with people who have knowledge of emerging-market hardships.

After two years with Global Telephone Services, Phillip Lee, 34, was recently promoted to director of business development for Central Europe. Mr. Lee, who along with his family has been based in Budapest since 1992, said the number of expatriate managers was shrinking regionwide, but that the demand for them was "stronger now than it ever was."

A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR YOUR GREAT GREAT GRANDSON



How often do you have the opportunity to acquire a family heirloom? The Corum Gold Coin Watch. An authentic $20 U.S. gold piece, first minted more than 100 years ago, is halved and an ultra-flat mechanical or quartz movement is cushioned inside. Heralded as one of the world's great timepieces, it is prized as an heirloom to be passed on from generation to generation.

CORUM
Maîtres Artisans d'Horlogerie
SUISSE

China: Lustime (Hong Kong) Ltd. - China Representative Office, Shanghai, Tel. 6474 9087 or 6474 0992. **Hong Kong:** Lustime (Hong Kong) Ltd. Tel 2 877 8767 **Japan:** Japan Time-Art Corp., Tokyo, Tel 3 3253 1331. **Malaysia:** Lustime Sdn. Bhd., Kuala Lumpur, Tel. 3 202 2595. **Philippines:** La Estrella del Norte Inc., Metro Manila, Tel. (632) 811 55 25. **Singapore:** Lustime Singapore Pte. Ltd., Tel 735 7378. **Taiwan:** Jye Shang Trading Co. Ltd., Taipei, Tel. 2 511 1115. **Thailand:** Bucholtd Ltd., Bangkok, Tel. 2 939 7030.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates

April 24

	$	£	D.M.	F.F.	Lira	D.Fl	B.F.	S.F.	Yen	C$	Peseta
Amsterdam	1.704	2.577	1.1193	0.3313	0.1094*	—	5.4475*	1.3815	1.5958*	1.253	1.347*
Brussels	31.2675	47.385	20.5475	6.083	2.0883*	18.358	—	25.3505	0.3925	23.025	24.7225*
Frankfurt	1.5224	2.3843	—	0.2963	0.9783*	0.8934	4.8665*	1.2337	1.4232*	1.121	1.2034*
London (a)	1.5135	—	2.3025	7.7744	2,351.99	2.577	47.315	1.8642	161.63	2.0606	191.34
Madrid	126.507	191.392	83.135	24.612	8.125*	74.276	4.046	102.576	118.341*	93.157	—
Milan	1,554.75	2,351.20	1,022.00	302.83	—	913.10	49.79	1,257.50	14.608	1,134.30	12.391
New York (b)	—	1.5159■	1.5202	5.1365	1,553.00	1.7046	31.30	1.2307	106.55	1.3653	126.35
Paris	5.14	7.7765	3.378	—	0.3301*	3.0179	0.1644	4.1677	4.8083*	3.785	4.064*
Tokyo	106.70	161.77	70.11	20.78	0.687	62.65	3.4022	86.49	—	78.31	0.8453
Toronto	1.3663	2.0786	0.8987	0.266	0.088*	0.8032	0.4365*	1.1098	1.2811*	—	1.082*
Zurich	1.2308	1.8652	0.8083	0.2396	0.0791*	0.7241	3.9418*	—	1.154*	0.9062	0.975*
1 ECU	1.256	0.8307	1.9092	6.456	1,948.94	2.1358	39.226	1.5452	133.864	1.7101	152.66
1 SDR	1.4466	0.9556	2.2023	7.4354	2,252.43	2.4638	45.1984	1.7851	154.083	1.9787	182.349

Closings in Amsterdam, London, Milan, New York, Paris and Zurich, fixings in other centers; Toronto rates at 3 p.m.
*a: To buy one pound; b: To buy one dollar; *Units of 100; N.Q.: not quoted; N.A.: not available.*

Other Dollar Values

Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $
Argent. peso	0.9988	Greek drac.	242.04	Mex. peso	7.4100	S. Afr. rand	4.2375
Australian $	1.2739	Hong Kong $	7.7347	N. Zealand $	1.4702	S. Kor. won	778.00
Austrian sch.	10.700	Hung. forint	149.59	Norw. krone	6.5385	Swed. krona	6.7379
Brazil real	0.9850	Indian rupee	34.170	Phil. peso	26.17	Taiwan $	27.19
Chinese yuan	8.3502	Indo. rupiah	2326.50	Polish zloty	2.64	Thai baht	25.28
Czech koruna	27.70	Irish £	0.6405	Port. escudo	155.70	Turkish lira	74001.50
Danish krone	5.8670	Israeli shek.	3.1720	Russ ruble	4942.00	UAE dirham	3.6710
Egypt. pound	3.3965	Kuw dinar	0.3004	Saudi riyal	3.7502	Venez. boliv.	481.0000
Fin. markka	4.8195	Malay. ring.	2.5010	Sing. $	1.4085		

Forward Rates

Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day
Pound Sterling	1.5127	1.5121	1.5115	Japanese yen	106.39	105.97	105.56
Canadian dollar	1.3591	1.3598	1.3604	Swiss franc	1.2292	1.2257	1.2221
Deutsche mark	1.5186	1.5159	1.5131				

Sources: ING Bank (Amsterdam); Indosuez Bank (Brussels); Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Banque de France (Paris); Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto); IMF (SDR). Other data from Reuters and AP.

Eurocurrency Deposits

April 24

	Dollar	D-Mark	Swiss Franc	Sterling	French Franc	Yen	ECU
1-month	5 5/16 - 5 7/16	3 5/16 - 3 7/16	1 1/4 - 1 3/8	6 - 6 1/8	3 13/16 - 3 15/16	1/2 - 5/8	4 1/4 - 4 3/8
3-month	5 3/8 - 5 1/2	3 5/16 - 3 7/16	1 1/4 - 1 3/8	6 1/16 - 6 3/16	3 13/16 - 3 3/4	9/16 - 11/16	4 5/16 - 4 7/16
6-month	5 7/16 - 5 1/2	3 3/8 - 3 1/2	1 3/8 - 1 1/2	6 1/8 - 6 1/4	3 3/4 - 3 7/8	3/4 - 7/8	4 7/16 - 4 9/16
1-year	5 9/16 - 5 3/4	3 9/16 - 3 11/16	1 7/8 - 2 1/16	6 7/16 - 6 9/16	3 7/8 - 4 1/16	15/16 - 1 1/16	4 5/8 - 4 3/4

Sources: Reuters, Lloyds Bank.
Rates applicable to interbank deposits of $1 million minimum (or equivalent).

Key Money Rates

United States	Close	Prev
Discount rate	5.00	5.00
Prime rate	8 1/4	8 1/4
Federal funds	5 1/4	5 1/4
3-month CDs	4.99	4.96
CP 180 days direct	6.11	6.11
3 month Treasury bill	5.00	4.97
1-year Treasury bill	5.22	5.18
2-year Treasury bill	5.97	5.92
5-year Treasury note	6.36	6.30
7-year Treasury note	6.45	6.39
10-year Treasury note	6.58	6.52
30-year Treasury bond	6.82	6.77
Merrill Lynch 30-day RA	4.77	4.78
Japan		
Discount rate	0.50	0.50
Call money	0.44	0.45
1-month interbank	0.63	0.63
3-month interbank	0.72	0.72
6-month interbank	0.91	0.88
10-year Govt bond	3.33	3.31
Germany		
Lombard rate	4.50	4.50
Call money	3.37	3.40
1-month interbank	3.35	3.35
3-month interbank	3.32	3.32
6-month interbank	3.30	3.30
10-year Bond	6.35	6.57

Britain		
Bank base rate	6.00	6.00
Call money	6 1/16	6 1/8
1-month interbank	6.00	6.00
3-month interbank	6.00	6.00
6-month interbank	6 1/8	6 1/8
10-year Gilt	8.02	8.00
France		
Intervention rate	3.70	3.70
Call money	3 13/16	3 3/4
1-month interbank	3 3/4	3 13/16
3-month interbank	3 3/4	3 13/16
6-month interbank	3 13/16	3 3/4
10-year OAT	6.40	6.40

Sources: Reuters, Bloomberg, Merrill Lynch, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Commerzbank, Crédit Lyonnais.

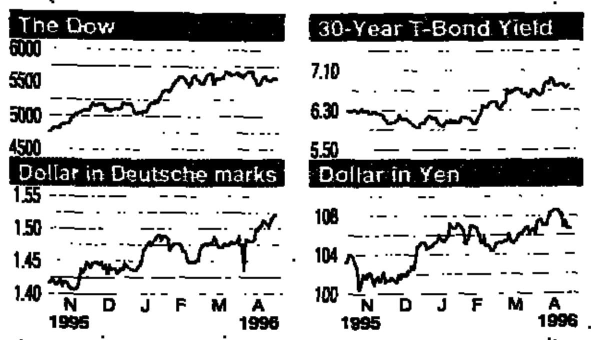
Gold

	A.M.	P.M.	Ch'ge
Zurich	N.A.	391.10	—0.90
London	391.10	390.80	—0.95
New York	393.50	392.70	—0.70

U.S. dollars per ounce. London official fixings; Zurich and New York opening and closing prices; New York Comex (June.)
Source: Reuters.

THE AMERICAS

Investor's America



Exchange	Index	Wednesday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
NYSE	The Dow	5553.90	5588.59	-0.87
NYSE	S&P 500	650.17	651.58	-0.43
NYSE	S&P 100	627.75	628.62	-0.47
NYSE	Composite	348.96	349.60	-0.35
U.S.	Nasdaq Composite	1176.83	1166.76	+0.72
AMEX	Market Value	589.05	580.73	+0.37
Toronto	TSE Index	5116.30	5116.90	-0.10
São Paulo	Bovespa	50470.11	50619.22	-0.16
Mexico City	Bolsa	3252.87	3217.86	+1.06
Buenos Aires	Merval	560.77	555.86	+0.88
Santiago	IPSA General	5481.72	5512.05	+5.16
Caracas	Capital General	N.A.	3860.78	-

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters — International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

Rite Aid Calls Off Revco Deal

CLEVELAND (AP) — Rite Aid Corp. said Wednesday it had withdrawn its $1.8 billion offer to buy a competitor, Revco D.S. Inc., in the face of pressure from regulators over antitrust concerns.

The Federal Trade Commission said Tuesday it planned to go ahead with a lawsuit to block the drugstore chains' merger. The decision was an apparent rejection of a proposal by Rite Aid to sell 340 stores in an effort to avoid an antitrust fight with the government.

Chemicals Undercut Du Pont's Net

WILMINGTON, Delaware (AP) — Du Pont Co. on Wednesday said first-quarter earnings fell more than 8 percent, to $879 million, because of lower profits from chemicals, fibers and plastics that more than offset a gain in its oil business.

"Chemicals and specialties continue to face a difficult business climate in most markets around the world," said John A. Krol, president and chief executive officer.

- **Anheuser-Busch Cos.** first-quarter earnings rose 27 percent, to $275.5 million, on a 2 percent increase in sales, to $2.37 billion.
- **Quaker State Corp.** reached a preliminary agreement to acquire **Blue Coral Inc.**, a privately held manufacturer and distributor of automotive care products, in a cash and stock deal valued at more than $100 million.
- **USAir Group Inc.** posted a first-quarter loss of $54.6 million, narrower than expected, although a harsh winter caused lower-than-expected revenue in January and February.
- **Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.**'s first-quarter net profit rose 13.8 percent, to $151.8 million, as strong sales in Asia and Europe and cost-cutting measures offset the effects of the strike at General Motors Corp. *AFX, Bloomberg, Knight-Ridder*

Compaq Jumps as Net Rises

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HOUSTON — Compaq Computer Corp. shares were up sharply Wednesday after the company reported a better-than-expected 8 percent rise in first-quarter net income on a 42 percent jump in sales.

The world's biggest maker of personal computers said profit after tax was $234 million, on sales of $4.2 billion.

"Compaq's first-quarter sales were strong in all regions, with North America increasing 56 percent, Europe 27 percent, Asia-Pacific 31 percent, Latin America 84 percent and Japan 17 percent," the company's chief executive, Eckhard Pfeiffer, said.

"Solid year-over-year sales growth and tight management of operating expenses delivered earnings growth despite pressure on gross margins.

"The market dynamics for 1996 appear to be strong worldwide, and we are confident about our opportunities to gain market share and achieve improved profitability for the balance of the year."

Compaq shares rose $3.125 to close at $47, though that was down from an intraday high of $50.375.

Compaq warned of disappointing earnings in early March, saying demand from corporate customers was weak and that it would have to cut prices to try to move excess inventory. That sent shares of computer and semiconductor makers tumbling.

"People were nervous that the PC world was going to fall apart, and they are seeing yet again that it hasn't fallen apart," John Dean, a Salomon Brothers analyst, said.

But the relatively strong numbers were seen as an indication that demand for PCs has not completely fallen off, and analysts said they expected the second half to be strong.

"We are getting closer to a major new product cycle," and that should spur revenue growth as well as a wider gross margin, said Andrew Neff of Bear, Steams & Co.

Compaq is expected to unveil new computers, servers and notebooks in June.

Also on Wednesday, Unisys Corp. reported a wider-than-expected first-quarter loss of $13.4 million as sales fell and the computer maker struggled to reorganize its businesses.

The loss followed net income of $44.6 million in the like period in 1995. Year-earlier results included the company's defense business, which was sold in 1995.

First-quarter sales at Unisys were down 2.7 percent, to $1.42 billion.

In addition, CompUSA Inc., America's biggest personal-computer retailer, said its earnings surged a better-than-expected 45 percent in its third quarter, to $22 million, as sales remained strong amid fierce competition.

(Bloomberg, AFP, Reuters)

■ Netscape Breaks Into Profit

Netscape Communications Corp. reported a tenfold increase in revenue and said first-quarter net income was $4.7 million, reversing a loss of $3.9 million a year earlier, on rapid deployment of private corporate intranets and the continued expansion of the Internet, Lawrence M. Fisher of The New York Times reported from San Francisco.

The company is best-known for its Netscape Navigator program for browsing the World Wide Web, which is available free. Netscape sells an increasingly diverse group of software programs that use Internet technology to distribute information. Netscape, based in Mountain View, California, reported its results after the market closed Tuesday.

In Nasdaq trading Wednesday, Netscape's shares jumped $5.25, to close at $67.

High-Tech Issues Rise, But Broad Index Falls

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Stock prices closed mostly lower Wednesday, but technology shares continued to rally on encouraging earnings reports from a range of computer-industry issues.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 5,553.90, down 34.69 points, and broader market indexes were mostly lower. Decliners led advancers by a slim margin on the New York Stock Exchange.

But the Nasdaq composite index, which had set records in the previous four sessions, posted another strong gain, climbing 10.07 points to 1,176.83. The technology-heavy Nasdaq has risen more than 7 percent in less than two weeks.

Computer stocks rose as a stream of positive earnings reports dispelled fears of lingering order backlogs and sluggish demand. On the Big Board, Digital Equipment, which jumped almost 10 percent Tuesday after reporting that its quarterly earnings had risen 68 percent, gained 1 to 61⅝.

Hewlett-Packard, which has yet to report its latest earnings, climbed 3 to 106.

Analysts attributed some of the broader market's decline to poor earnings reports and the continuing weakness in the bond market.

Disney, a component of the Dow Jones industrials, fell ⅛ to 60⅝ a day after reporting a first-quarter loss of $25 million on lower movie profit and two big one-time expenses — the cost of buying Capital Cities/ABC and a new accounting rule.

Bonds edged lower as the yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond rose to 6.82 percent from 6.78 percent Tuesday after the Commerce Department reported that orders to U.S. factories for big-ticket durable goods rose 1.4 percent in March, their first increase in three months.

Led by demand for aircraft, orders totaled a seasonally adjusted $167.6 billion, up from $165.3 billion in February. The increase was the first since a 3.1 percent advance last December.

The 2.3 percent drop in February was the steepest since orders plunged 4.6 percent in April 1995. Orders fell 0.6 percent in January.

Durable goods are items such as automobiles and aircraft expected to last more than three years.

Although many analysts had expected little change in orders in March, they predicted demand would pick up moderately as the year progressed.

Strong economic readings often hurt bond prices as traders become concerned that too much growth will cause inflation, which eats away at the value of fixed-income investments.

Stocks often fall with bonds because higher borrowing costs hurt corporate profits.

U.S. manufacturing has been weak for months, growing 6.7 percent last year compared with 10.3

U.S. STOCKS

percent in 1994. Orders are considered a key gauge of the U.S. manufacturing sector, and an increase could lead to greater production and more jobs.

The government reported earlier that industrial production slipped 0.5 percent in March because of the effects of the strike at General Motors. But excluding the 16 percent drop in motor vehicles, output rose 0.2 percent last month.

Air transport stocks were higher on earnings reports and news of a rise in durable-goods orders in the transport sector.

Shares in Atlas Air rose 2¼ to 48 after the cargo carrier said first-quarter earnings rose, compared with break-even results a year earlier.

World Airways shares rose 1⅛ to 9⅝ after a positive report from an analyst at J.P. Morgan Securities.

Computer-peripherals makers rode the technology wave higher. Adaptec rose 5¾ to 60¾ after the company said its fiscal fourth-quarter earnings had risen more than expected. Axent Technologies, a software company whose shares began trading Wednesday, rose 4¾ to 18¾.

Dollar General Corp. climbed 1⅛ to 32 after a Merrill Lynch & Co. analyst raised his rating on the department-store operator to "buy" from "accumulate."

Outdoor Systems, an outdoor advertising company, had its initial public offering of 2.95 million shares, and the share rose 6 to 21.

Oxford Health Plans shares rose 1¼ to 50 after an analyst at Smith Barney raised his recommendation on the company to "buy" from "outperform."

Among other active issues, Amtrol rose 2¾ to 19¼ after the company declared a special cash dividend of 70 cents a share.

Anadigics, an electrical equipment supplier, rose 2¼ to 29½ after it was rated a "buy" in new coverage by an analyst at Oppenheimer & Co. *(AP, Bloomberg)*

Dollar Rally Begins to Lose Momentum

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — The dollar weakened slightly Wednesday even though some dealers still expected the relative strength of the U.S. economy to give the currency limited gains in the short term.

"The market's objective is still for the dollar to go higher, but the rally is running out of steam," said Hillel Waxman, manager of foreign exchange at Bank Leumi Trust Co.

The dollar has less room to rise against the yen, traders said, because Japan's economic recovery will gradually push the country's interest rates higher, lifting the returns on yen deposits.

Furthermore, many traders suspect monetary authorities in Japan and the United States are basically content with the current dollar-yen rate and will not seek to drive the dollar any higher.

The dollar slipped to 1.5202 Deutsche marks from 1.5220 DM on Tuesday.

It also fell to 106.550 yen from 106.705 yen.

Recent economic reports suggest that the U.S. economy is healthier than its European rivals. The U.S. durable-goods report, showing a bigger-than-expected 1.4 percent rise in orders for big-ticket items in March, reinforced that view.

While the U.S. economy is thought to have grown at an annual rate of 2 percent to 3 percent in the first quarter, the German economy appears to have shrunk for a second straight quarter.

"Things are coasting along well here in the U.S., but I think Europe still has rate cuts to go," said Bob Gruber, senior currency salesman at Chase Manhattan Bank.

Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer said Sunday that he welcomed the dollar's recent rise against the mark and that the U.S. currency still had room for further gains.

"The economic situation in Germany continues to show signs of weakness," said Jeremy Stretch, analyst at NatWest Markets.

Mr. Waxman said the dollar could rise to 1.55 DM in the next month, but not much more. "At that point, I'd be cautious," he said.

Traders warned that the dollar might be near its peak against the yen as well. "As you see continued strength out of the Japanese economy, with potential for them to raise rates on the horizon," the dollar will run out of upward momentum, said Brian Dolan, currency strategist at Credit Suisse Bank.

Moreover, a stronger dollar would hurt the earnings of big U.S. companies, and President Bill Clinton will probably take care not to draw their ire with the presidential election coming in November, traders said.

"The current level seems to be satisfactory to both the U.S. and Japan," said Mr. Waxman, who expects the dollar to stay between 105 yen and 108 yen during the next month.

Against other major currencies, the dollar fell to 1.2307 Swiss francs from to 1.2338 francs and to 5.1365 French francs from 5.1410 francs.

The pound slipped to $1.5159 from $1.5165. It had been considered likely to come under pressure before municipal elections in Britain on May 2, Mr. Stretch said. *(Bloomberg, AFP)*

AMEX

Wednesday's 4 p.m. Close

The top 300 most-active shares, up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press

Stock	Sales	High	Low	Latest	Chge
[illegible]					

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Stock Tables Explained

Sales figures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the current week, but not the latest trading day. Where a split or stock dividend amounting to 25 percent or more has been paid, the years high-low range and dividend are shown for the new stocks only. Unless otherwise noted, rates of dividends are annual disbursements based on the latest declaration.

a - dividend also extra (s). b - annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend. c - liquidating dividend. cld - called. d - new yearly low. e - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months. g - dividend in Canadian funds, subject to 15% non-residence tax. i - dividend declared after split-up or stock dividend. j - dividend paid this year, omitted, deferred, or no action taken at latest dividend meeting. k - dividend declared or paid this year, an accumulative issue with dividends in arrears. n - new issue in the past 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading. nd - next day delivery. P/E - price-earnings ratio. r - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months, plus stock dividend. s - stock split. Dividend begins with date of split. sls - sales. t - dividend paid in stock in preceding 12 months, estimated cash value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date. u - new yearly high. v - trading halted. vi - in bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganized under the Bankruptcy Act, or securities assumed by such companies. wd - when distributed. wi - when issued/ ww - with warrants. x - ex-dividend or ex-rights. xdis - ex-distribution. xw - without warrants. y- ex-dividend and sales in full. yld - yield. z - sales in full.

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

April 24, 1996

Grains

	High	Low	Close	Chge	OpInt
CORN (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- dollars per bushel					
May 96	4.88	4.71	4.87	+0.08½	62,450
Jul 96	4.71	4.51	4.70	+0.09½	165,798
Sep 96	3.73½	3.65½	3.77	-0.01¼	55,274
Dec 96	3.35	3.27¼	3.33	-0.01	126,117
Mar 97	3.39	3.32½	3.38½	-0.01¼	13,181
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 119,754					
Tue's open int 431,152 off 9442					
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT) 100 tons- dollars per ton					
May 96	257.80	252.50	255.30	-1.60	17,816
Jul 96	262.30	255.00	259.50	-1.40	50,691
Aug 96	262.50	256.00	259.80	-1.20	10,222
Sep 96	259.80	253.50	254.80	-1.20	6,250
Oct 96	254.80	250.50	252.80	-1.00	3,563
Dec 96	255.00	249.80	252.40	-1.00	14,690
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 26,296					
Tue's open int 105,222 off 944					
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) 60,000 lbs.- dollars per 100 lbs.					
May 96	26.70	26.25	26.61	-0.01	16,280
Jul 96	27.13	26.65	26.98	-0.08	46,588
Aug 96	27.25	26.90	27.18	-0.03	8,665
Sep 96	27.40	27.10	27.30	-0.10	4,337
Oct 96	27.53	27.20	27.40	-0.09	2,976
Dec 96	27.85	27.40	27.71	-0.08	15,146
Est. sales 11,688 Tue's. sales 18,736					
Tue's open int 95,322 off 391					
SOYBEANS (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- dollars per bushel					
May 96	8.18	7.99	8.10	-0.02¼	25,871
Jul 96	8.27½	8.06	8.19½	-0.02½	80,227
Aug 96	8.26	8.05	8.20	-0.00½	10,126
Sep 96	8.09	7.88	7.99	-0.05	5,738
Nov 96	8.00	7.78	7.91	-0.03	69,205
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 80,044					
Tue's open int 204,186 off 2709					
WHEAT (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- dollars per bushel					
May 96	6.80	6.25	6.76½	+0.23	6,272
Jul 96	6.25½	5.93	6.14	-0.01½	60,594
Sep 96	6.20	5.96	6.12	+0.01	14,492
Dec 96	6.24½	6.01	6.12¼	-0.04¼	15,356
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 37,872					
Tue's open int 10,192 off 9019					

Livestock

	High	Low	Close	Chge	OpInt
CATTLE (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jun 96	57.90	56.02	56.30	-1.07	37,440
Aug 96	60.30	58.48	59.15	-0.62	24,431
Oct 96	62.30	60.70	61.50	-0.37	16,144
Dec 96	61.10	59.55	60.37	-0.08	10,355
Feb 97	61.65	60.30	61.38	+0.05	7,463
Apr 97	64.05	63.05	63.85	+0.20	831
Est. sales 31,477 Tue's. sales 28,078					
Tue's open int 97,077 up 2					
FEEDER CATTLE (CMER) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Apr 96	51.00	50.75	50.80	+0.25	1,426
May 96	50.50	48.65	48.15	-0.77	6,696
Aug 96	53.10	51.50	52.05	-0.15	10,102
Sep 96	54.40	52.90	53.60	-0.20	1,989
Oct 96	56.00	54.75	55.17	-0.23	2,949
Nov 96	57.75	56.62	57.00	-0.27	1,406
Est. sales 7,124 Tue's. sales 7,305					
Tue's open int 25,436 up 229					
HOGS-Live(2/97 Lean) (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Jun 96	59.27	58.45	58.80	-0.17	19,415
Jul 96	57.40	56.67	57.12	+0.15	7,458
Aug 96	54.05	53.20	53.67	-0.05	5,622
Oct 96	49.20	48.60	48.80	-0.20	3,973
Dec 96	51.42	50.80	51.07		3,728
Feb 97	73.80	73.20	73.40	-0.20	633
Est. sales 8,252 Tue's. sales 8,611					
Tue's open int 41,700 off 959					
PORK BELLIES (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 96	81.22	79.02	81.22	+2.00	4,045
Jul 96	80.57	78.40	80.57	+2.00	4,597
Aug 96	78.42	76.40	78.42	+2.00	1,428
Feb 97	76.95	75.70	76.95	+2.00	424
Mar 97	77.00	77.00	77.08	+2.00	32
May 98	79.70	78.50	79.70	+1.70	21
Est. sales 2,037 Tue's. sales 3,271					
Tue's open int 10,747 up 280					

Food

	High	Low	Close	Chge	OpInt
COCOA (NCSE) 10 metric tons- $ per ton					
May 96	1380	1345	1372	+30	385
Jul 96	1399	1351	1390	+30	34,142
Sep 96	1410	1368	1401	+25	15,841
Dec 96	1421	1381	1414	+24	16,498
Mar 97	1432	1392	1426	+24	12,009
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 12,248					
Tue's open int 93,010 off 152					
COFFEE C (NCSE) 37,500 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 96	129.25	126.90	127.45	+0.40	1,865
Jul 96	129.25	124.20	127.00	+0.10	18,982
Sep 96	127.70	125.00	125.60	-0.10	4,459
Dec 96	126.25	123.75	124.10	+0.10	2,353
Est. sales 8,200 Tue's. sales 10,809					
Tue's open int 28,498 up 7165					
SUGAR-WORLD 11 (NCSE) 112,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 96	11.16	11.06	11.09	+0.03	15,071
Jul 96	10.80	10.49	10.75	+0.09	56,543
Oct 96	10.76	10.68	10.71	+0.04	34,433
Mar 97	10.67	10.60	10.61		22,240
Est. sales 19,520 Tue's. sales 17,533					
Tue's open int 138,240 up 434					

	High	Low	Close	Chge	OpInt
ORANGE JUICE (NCTN) 15,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 96	136.75	133.20	136.65	+2.80	6,047
Jul 96	136.00	131.50	135.30	+2.85	9,139
Sep 96	132.50	129.50	132.00	+1.75	2,971
Nov 96	126.50	126.00	126.00	+0.20	966
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 6,420					
Tue's open int 22,457 off 146					

Metals

	High	Low	Close	Chge	OpInt
GOLD (NCMX) 100 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Apr 96	391.00	390.20	390.60	-0.70	47
May 96			391.30	-0.70	2
Jun 96	393.60	392.40	392.70	-0.70	102,613
Aug 96	396.00	394.80	395.00	-0.70	20,813
Oct 96			397.40	-0.70	5,472
Dec 96	400.80	399.50	399.80	-0.70	24,235
Feb 97			402.20	-0.70	5,125
Apr 97	404.90	404.90	404.60	-0.80	4,809
Est. sales 15,000 Tue's. sales 15,714					
Tue's open int 203,351 up 690					
HI GRADE COPPER (NCMX) 25,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Apr 96	124.80	122.45	124.80	+1.55	1,290
May 96	123.80	120.60	122.85	+1.15	15,451
Jun 96	121.60	120.00	121.65	+1.05	1,422
Jul 96	121.20	118.60	120.70	+1.20	17,893
Aug 96			119.45	+1.15	581
Sep 96	118.80	116.20	118.30	+1.10	3,944
Oct 96			117.15	+1.05	492
Nov 96			116.10	+1.05	384
Dec 96	114.50	113.50	115.00	+1.00	5,814
Est. sales 15,000 Tue's. sales 9,135					
Tue's open int 50,367 up 957					
SILVER (NCMX) 5,000 troy oz.- cents per troy oz.					
Apr 96			529.0	-2.2	1
May 96	532.5	528.5	529.2	-2.3	27,973
Jul 96	537.5	533.5	534.2	-2.5	42,138
Sep 96	541.5	539.0	539.1	-2.4	12,076
Dec 96	550.5	546.0	546.4	-2.4	8,578
Jan 97			549.5	-2.4	6
Mar 97			554.0	-2.4	3,357
May 97			558.9	-2.4	779
Est. sales 21,000 Tue's. sales 27,079					
Tue's open int 98,307 off 3661					
PLATINUM (NMER) 50 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Apr 96	404.00	404.00	406.80	-3.90	10
Jul 96	405.20	403.10	404.80	-3.90	19,705
Oct 96	408.00	407.80	408.00	-2.90	3,365
Jan 97	411.50	410.00	410.80	-2.90	1,076
Apr 97	411.50	411.50	413.50	-2.90	948
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 1,481					
Tue's open int 25,104 off 258					

LONDON METALS (LME) Dollars per metric ton	Close		Previous	
Aluminum (High Grade)				
Spot	1572½	1573½	1573.00	1574.00
Forward	1606.00	1607.00	1607.00	1608.00
Copper Cathodes (High Grade)				
Spot	2675.00	2678.00	2680.00	2682.00
Forward	2595½	2596½	2604.00	2605.00
Lead				
Spot	809.00	811.00	820.00	822.00
Forward	805.00	805½	813.00	814.00
Nickel				
Spot	7940.00	7950.00	8030.00	8040.00
Forward	8040.00	8045.00	8125.00	8135.00
Tin				
Spot	6510.00	6520.00	6610.00	6620.00
Forward	6530.00	6540.00	6630.00	6635.00
Zinc (Special High Grade)				
Spot	1034½	1035½	1040.00	1041.00
Forward	1060½	1061.00	1066.00	1066½

Financial

	High	Low	Close	Chge	OpInt
US T. BILLS (CMER) $1 million- pts of 100 pct.					
Jun 96	95.02	95.00	95.00	-0.01	9,522
Sep 96	94.85	94.80	94.81	-0.03	5,084
Dec 96	94.65	94.61	94.61	-0.05	793
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 697					
Tue's open int 15,399 off 8					
5 YR. TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Jun 96	106-155	106-085	106-07	-06	175,912
Sep 96	106-035	105-30	105-30	-065	11,448
Dec 96			105-185	-065	35
Est. sales 45,000 Tue's. sales 32,392					
Tue's open int 187,396 off 960					
10 YR. TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Jun 96	108-08	107-26	107-28	-09	288,223
Sep 96	107-30	107-19	107-20	-08	35,535
Dec 96			107-01	-08	2,662
Est. sales 79,876 Tue's. sales 46,605					
Tue's open int 326,440 up 367					
US TREASURY BONDS (CBOT) (8 pct-$100,000-pts & 32nds of 100 pct)					
Jun 96	110-14	109-23	109-24	-16	340,839
Sep 96	109-29	109-07	109-07	-16	26,018
Dec 96	109-12	108-22	108-22	-16	5,404
Mar 97			108-09	-16	936
Est. sales 230,000 Tue's. sales 206,695					
Tue's open int 373,256 off 2415					
LONG GILT (LIFFE) £50,000 - pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Jun 96	106-19	106-01	106-04	-0-05	113,650
Sep 96	N.T.	N.T.	105-04	-0-05	167
Est. sales: 77,251. Prev. sales: 47,893					
Prev. open int.: 113,817 off 3,359					
GERMAN GOVERNMENT BUND (LIFFE) DM250,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 96	97.32	97.02	97.08	-0.01	190,952
Sep 96	96.36	96.17	96.18	-0.01	6,988
Est. sales: 129,782. Prev. sales: 156,408					
Prev. open int.: 197,940 off 805					

	High	Low	Close	Chge	OpInt
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BOND (LIFFE) ITL 200 million - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 96	114.22	113.62	114.03	+0.08	61,364
Sep 96	113.50	113.38	113.39	+0.08	524
Est. sales: 40,470. Prev. sales: 71,369					
Prev. open int.: 61,888 up 6,465					
EURODOLLARS (CMER) $1 million-pts of 100 pct.					
May 96	94.550	94.540	94.540	-10	18,121
Jun 96	94.560	94.530	94.540	-10	380,555
Jul 96	94.510	94.480	94.480	-20	2,321
Sep 96	94.380	94.340	94.350	-30	358,634
Dec 96	94.150	94.090	94.100	-40	349,163
Mar 97	93.970	93.909	93.910	-50	240,701
Jun 97	93.808	93.730	93.740	-50	282,229
Mar 08	92.020	92.900	92.900	+850	613
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 293,908					
Tue's open int 2,522,280 up 12483					
BRITISH POUND (CMER) 62,500 pounds, $ per pound					
Jun 96	1.5154	1.5110	1.5148	-16	56,732
Sep 96	1.5140	1.5106	1.5132	-16	147
Dec 96			1.5118	-16	34
Mar 97			1.5098	-16	4
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 10,621					
Tue's open int 56,917 off 2630					
CANADIAN DOLLAR (CMER) 100,000 dollars, $ per Cdn. dlr					
Jun 96	.7365	.7313	.7328	-18	35,034
Sep 96	.7382	.7320	.7335	-18	1,799
Dec 96	.7395	.7330	.7341	-18	1,498
Mar 97			.7346	-18	439
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 2,869					
Tue's open int 39,169 up 298					
GERMAN MARK (CMER) 125,000 marks, $ per mark					
Jun 96	.6601	.6585	.6599	+3	81,891
Sep 96	.6638	.6627	.6638	+3	3,338
Dec 96	.6666	.6666	.6679	+3	380
Mar 97			.6722	+3	21
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 24,266					
Tue's open int 85,638 up 394					
JAPANESE YEN (CMER) 12.5 million yen, $ per 100 yen					
Jun 96	.009472	.009413	.009451	+5	67,368
Sep 96	.009562	.009531	.009563	+5	1,991
Dec 96	.009675	.009665	.009675	+6	1,164
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 14,328					
Tue's open int 70,632 off 7366					
SWISS FRANC (CMER) 125,000 francs, $ per franc					
Jun 96	.8169	.8140	.8166	+9	41,157
Sep 96	.8239	.8218	.8239	+8	1,530
Dec 96	.8310	.8300	.8314	+8	670
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 13,480					
Tue's open int					
3-MONTH STERLING (LIFFE) £500,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 96	93.98	93.96	93.96	Unch.	77,856
Sep 96	93.85	93.81	93.82	+0.01	59,303
Dec 96	93.48	93.43	93.45	+0.02	64,726
Mar 97	93.04	93.02	93.02	+0.04	43,127
Jun 97	92.69	92.62	92.66	+0.03	36,993
Sep 97	92.43	92.38	92.41	+0.02	26,889
Dec 97	92.25	92.23	92.22	+0.01	17,290
Mar 98	92.12	92.10	92.10	+0.01	11,160
Jun 98	92.04	92.00	92.01	+0.02	8,822
Sep 98	91.96	91.92	91.94	+0.02	7,075
Dec 98	91.89	91.85	91.87	+0.02	6,422
Mar 99	91.82	91.80	91.80	+0.02	1,884
Est. sales: 42,648. Prev. sales: 53,311					
Prev. open int.: 365,547 up 1,598					
3-MONTH EUROMARK (LIFFE) DM1 million - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 96	96.84	96.83	96.84	+0.01	216,816
Sep 96	96.86	96.84	96.84	Unch.	235,750
Dec 96	96.67	96.65	96.66	-0.01	197,384
Mar 97	96.38	96.34	96.35	-0.02	124,332
Jun 97	96.01	95.96	95.97	-0.03	99,852
Sep 97	95.64	95.57	95.59	-0.04	78,082
Dec 97	95.28	95.74	95.25	-0.04	54,354
Mar 98	94.97	94.92	94.92	-0.04	25,373
Jun 98	94.64	94.61	94.61	-0.03	21,172
Sep 98	94.34	94.29	94.30	-0.03	15,615
Dec 98	94.06	94.01	94.02	-0.03	13,851
Mar 99	93.82	93.76	93.76	-0.04	5,970
Est. sales: 10,992. Prev. sales: 9,051					
Prev. open int.: 54,563 off 928					
3-MONTH EUROLIRA (LIFFE) ITL 1 million - pts of 100 pct					
Jun 96	91.32	91.25	91.28	-0.02	46,069
Sep 96	91.89	91.82	91.84	-0.03	30,993
Dec 96	92.01	91.94	91.97	-0.01	22,137
Mar 97	91.94	91.88	91.90	Unch.	8,566
Jun 97	91.79	91.73	91.76	+0.01	4,533
Sep 97	91.60	91.56	91.59	+0.01	2,638
Est. sales: 20,834. Prev. sales: 35,502					
Prev. open int.: 114,936 up 2,192					

Industrials

	High	Low	Close	Chge	OpInt
COTTON 2 (NCTN) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
May 96	83.70	82.60	82.60	-0.09	1,422
Jul 96	85.35	84.50	84.62	+0.09	23,814
Oct 96	83.65	82.70	82.12	-0.38	3,229
Dec 96	82.10	81.80	81.87	-0.01	24,219
Mar 97	82.55	82.40	82.40	+0.10	2,619
May 97	82.85	82.85	82.90	+0.10	1,265
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 20,577					
Tue's open int 58,954 off 901					
HEATING OIL (NMER) 42,000 gal- cents per gal					
May 96	58.60	57.20	58.05	+0.75	12,062
Jun 96	55.70	54.35	54.60	-0.16	18,209
Jul 96	54.05	52.87	53.10	-0.16	12,980
Aug 96	53.90	52.65	52.70	-0.16	11,722
Sep 96	53.70	52.95	53.20	+0.04	6,366
Oct 96	54.10	53.90	54.05	+0.34	3,573
Nov 96	54.65	54.35	54.35	+0.07	4,095
Dec 96	55.20	54.70	54.70	-0.11	12,340
Jan 97	55.40	55.20	55.20	+0.19	3,982
Feb 97	54.90	54.50	54.50	+0.14	1,705
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 27,981					
Tue's open int 98,399 off 996					

	High	Low	Close	Chge	OpInt
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NMER) 1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.					
Jun 96	22.30	22.17	22.30	-0.40	112,597
Jul 96	21.55	20.70	20.77	-0.28	62,588
Aug 96	20.20	19.70	19.70	-0.19	45,825
Sep 96	19.66	19.10	19.22	-0.09	23,187
Oct 96	19.27	18.80	18.95	-0.02	24,473
Nov 96	19.02	18.60	18.73	-0.03	17,625
Dec 96	18.82	18.47	18.62	+0.04	31,666
Jan 97	18.55	18.45	18.50	+0.09	20,175
Feb 97	18.35	18.28	18.30	+0.04	16,482
Mar 97	18.27	18.15	18.15	+0.01	10,604
Apr 97	18.19	18.19	18.19	+0.13	5,305
May 97	18.08	18.06	18.06	+0.05	2,111
Jun 97	18.04	18.00	18.00	+0.03	13,190
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 120,217					
Tue's open int 447,297 off 10442					
NATURAL GAS (NMER) 10,000 mm btu's, $ per mm btu					
Jun 96	2.325	2.245	2.255	-38	31,584
Jul 96	2.315	2.250	2.255	-45	21,024
Aug 96	2.305	2.240	2.265	-29	16,497
Sep 96	2.270	2.215	2.240	-27	13,375
Oct 96	2.259	2.215	2.240	-24	12,083
Nov 96	2.290	2.865	2.278	-22	7,954
Dec 96	2.370	2.340	2.345	-10	10,853
Jan 97	2.385	2.350	2.360	-25	5,017
Jan 97	2.105	2.105	2.105	-14	510
Feb 97	2.270	2.245	2.245	-25	3,376
Mar 97	2.070	2.055	2.060	-18	3,117
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 57,455					
Tue's open int 162,211 off 9119					
UNLEADED GASOLINE (NMER) 42,000 gal- cents per gal					
May 96	75.20	72.75	74.15	+0.97	14,327
Jun 96	72.38	70.40	70.98	+0.23	25,800
Jul 96	68.60	66.80	67.15	-0.15	14,282
Aug 96	64.60	63.10	63.45	-0.25	9,114
Sep 96	61.20	59.95	60.20	-0.25	3,494
Oct 96	57.50	57.25	57.25		1,117
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 37,675					
Tue's open int 71,086					
GASOIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per metric ton - lots of 100 tons					
May 96	178.25	174.00	174.25	+1.25	13,773
Jun 96	172.25	169.00	169.25	+1.75	13,260
July 96	169.00	166.50	166.75	+1.75	6,858
Aug 96	167.50	165.50	166.75	+1.25	5,769
Sep 96	167.75	165.00	166.00	+0.50	3,200
Oct 96	167.00	167.00	165.50	+0.50	1,610
Nov 96	N.T.	N.T.	165.50	+0.25	1,300
Dec 96	168.50	165.50	165.50	Unch.	6,398
Jan 96	N.T.	N.T.	165.00	Unch.	660
Est. sales: 12,511. Open Int.:53,427 Off 641					
BRENT OIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per barrel - lots of 1,000 barrels					
June 96	20.87	19.70	19.88	-0.35	66,976
July 96	19.82	18.90	18.96	-0.26	58,961
Aug 96	18.99	18.28	18.33	-0.26	18,637
Sep 96	18.44	17.84	17.88	-0.25	12,598
Oct 96	18.07	17.54	17.58	-0.27	7,339
Nov 96	17.75	17.40	17.40	-0.27	3,757
Dec 96	17.60	17.25	17.25	-0.27	11,756
Jan 97	17.40	17.14	17.14	-0.25	10,842
Feb 97	17.09	17.04	17.04	-0.25	6,005
Mar 97	17.00	17.00	16.95	-0.25	1,371
Apr 97	17.05	17.05	16.87	-0.25	1,900
Est. sales: 64,147. Open Int.: 200,292 off 885					

Stock Indexes

	High	Low	Close	Chge	OpInt
S&P COMP. INDEX (CMER) 500 x index					
Jun 96	657.00	650.00	652.25	-2.75	178,679
Sep 96	662.30	655.50	658.00	-2.50	4,717
Dec 96	667.50	662.00	664.30	-1.70	2,734
Est. sales N.A. Tue's. sales 54,951					
Tue's open int 187,792 up 1084					
FTSE 100 (LIFFE) £25 per index point					
Jun 96	3862.0	3850.0	3832.0	-11.0	61,508
Sep 96	3872.0	3868.0	3846.0	-10.0	3,226
Dec 96	N.T.	N.T.	3876.5	-9.0	
Est. sales: 12,641. Prev. sales: 9,927					
Prev. open int.: 64,815 up 1,542					

Commodity Indexes

	Close	Previous
Moody's	1,548.00	1,546.50
Reuters	2,130.80	2,141.40
D.J. Futures	156.68	156.40
CRB	261.13	261.01

Spot Commodities

Commodity	Today	Prev.
Aluminum, lb	0.7037	0.713
Copper electrolytic, lb	1.29	1.23
Iron FOB, ton	167.00	167.00
Lead, lb	0.52	0.52
Silver, troy oz	5.29	5.275
Steel (scrap), ton	136.20	135.17
Zinc, lb	0.5008	0.5031

Sources: Matif, Associated Press, London Int'l Financial Futures Exchange, Int'l Petroleum Exchange.

To Our Readers

Because of technical problems at the source MATIF figures were not available for this edition.

Slow Spending Hits Electronics

Philips Profit Falls 7%, but Exports Help Lift Siemens

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

A slowdown in consumer spending in Europe hurt first-quarter earnings at Philips NV, the Dutch electronics giant, while exports helped Siemens AG of Germany to a 20 percent increase in net profit in its first half, according to figures released Wednesday.

Philips said its first-quarter net profit fell 6.9 percent, to 692 million guilders ($404.9 million), largely because of unfavorable developments in Europe and the United States in consumer products, semiconductors and business electronics. Sales rose 6.9 percent, to 15.63 billion guilders.

The Dutch company added it did not expect earnings to improve before the second half of 1996. Philips warned last month that profit from its normal business operations would be "substantially lower" in the first quarter.

Siemens said net profit for the six months ended March 31 rose 15 percent, to 1.08 billion Deutsche marks ($712.5 million), as growth in international markets offset a sales decline in Germany.

The electronics and equipment company said sales rose 6 percent, to 42.3 billion DM. International sales rose 14 percent, to 25.4 billion DM, compensating for a 5 percent decline in Germany, to 16.9 billion DM.

Siemens had double-digit sales increases in Asia, Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, the company said.

New orders rose 5.4 percent, to 48.6 billion DM. International orders rose 8 percent, to 29.8 billion DM, with growth especially strong in Asia and North and South America, Siemens said.

Lower reorganization costs and a weaker mark, which made its products more competitive abroad and increased the value of export sales, also helped earnings, the company said.

Among business areas, growth was strongest in communications, which includes mobile-phone sales and the construction of public telecommunications networks.

Growth of semiconductor sales flattened at a "high level." Siemens said, while providing the strongest earnings among business areas.

The company also said it had experienced a "healthy jump" in international orders for power plants, especially in Asia. In transportation systems and automotive systems, international growth failed to offset a decline domestically.

Siemens Nixdorf Informationssysteme AG, Siemens's computer unit, had "steady growth" internationally, driven by personal-computer sales, the company said. Orders for medical systems fell because of domestic health-care changes, it said.

In Amsterdam, Philips shares fell 2 percent, to 61.90 guilders. Siemens shares rose 2.20 DM, to 839, in Frankfurt. *(Bloomberg, AP)*

■ Mannesmann Sales Rise

Mannesmann AG said its first-quarter sales rose 3 percent, to 7.1 billion DM, as growth in telecommunications and machinery offset declines in automotive sales and trading, Bloomberg Business News reported from Düsseldorf.

Earnings in the first quarter were "slightly higher," Mannesmann said, without giving figures.

London Shares Fall as U.K. Rejects 2 Electricity Mergers

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Stock prices fell Wednesday after the government jolted the market by turning down two proposed mergers in the electricity industry.

The Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-share index finished down 15.4 points, or 0.4 percent, at 3,817.6 after showing a gain through most of the session.

Investors' moods were dampened when Trade Secretary Ian Lang blocked both National Power PLC's £2.5 billion ($3.75 billion) bid for Southern Electric PLC and PowerGen PLC's £1.9 billion bid for Midlands Electricity PLC.

Stock-market volume slowed to 922.8 million shares from 979.8 million shares Tuesday.

National Power and PowerGen wanted to buy distribution companies so they could sell electricity to homes for the first time and offset declining market shares. But after a five-month review, the government said the two companies were too big to allow such consolidations.

Shares of both companies fell as investors concluded that their failure to acquire distribution companies would diminish their ability to increase earnings. National Power stock fell 32 pence a share, or 5.4 percent, to 564, and PowerGen fell 36, or 5.9 percent, to 570.

Mr. Lang had the final say on whether to permit the acquisitions, but the industry's regulators as well as consumer groups had expressed concern about the what would have been the country's biggest mergers of private electricity generating and distribution businesses.

Roche Net Rises 18% on Drug Sales

Bloomberg Business News

BASEL — Roche Holding AG said Wednesday that 1995 net profit rose 18 percent, to 3.37 billion Swiss francs ($2.73 billion), as drug and financial revenue grew.

While the rise in net was in line with expectations, analysts and fund managers said investors might be disappointed at the anniversary bonus payment to shareholders, which Roche said would be 36 francs a share. The payment had been widely expected to be as high as several hundred francs. Some analysts said this could indicate that Roche was considering a major acquisition.

"The figures for 1995 are excellent, but the bonus is the absolute minimum one could have expected," said German Huesler, a portfolio manager at Union Bank of Switzerland. But the company raised its regular dividend to 64 francs a share from 55 francs, and its shares rose 35 francs, to 9,825.

Data Cloud Outlook For French Economy

By Max Berley
Special to the Herald Tribune

PARIS — Statistics released Wednesday raised doubt that France's economy was growing rapidly enough to allow it to meet the criteria for a single European currency, economists said.

The conjunction of slower-than-expected growth in 1995 and a shaky economy for the first months of 1996 indicate that recovery in France may be having trouble getting off the ground, they said.

Data released by the official statistics institute INSEE showed that France's gross domestic product grew 2.2 percent in 1995, less than a preliminary figure that showed growth of 2.4 percent. INSEE also released data showing that industrial production excluding energy and food slumped 1.2 percent in February after an increase of 0.6 percent in January.

Economists said the two indicators had raised questions about France's economy and its ability to meet criteria for joining a single European currency by 1999. The criteria set forth in the Maastricht treaty on European union require that countries seeking to adopt the single currency reduce their deficits to 3 percent of their GDP. France's deficit in 1995 amounted to 5 percent of GDP.

"The figures show that France has not yet come out of a risky period and that signs of recovery remain fragile," said Jean-François Mercier, an economist at Salomon Brothers in London. "The road to Maastricht remains long."

He said the new data could depress France's growth in 1996 to around 1 percent, rather than the 1.3 percent forecast by the government.

The government downplayed the data, saying it was counting on a gradual, steady lowering of French interest rates and the new strength of the dollar to trigger growth in the second quarter.

"Overall, the indicators available to us for measuring economic activity since the beginning of the year inspire optimism," said the budget minister, Alain Lamassoure. "There is no doubt that a recovery of consumption is under way, and this is significantly stronger than we had expected at the beginning of the year, and the intentions of business leaders to invest, notably in industry, are very strong."

But Mr. Mercier said the data did little to inspire optimism over growth in the economy.

"The prospects for the future are not completely clear," he said.

If the economic situation fails to improve and new spending cuts cannot be not found, "the markets could conclude that France will not be able to meet the Maastricht criteria," he said.

■ Paris Chosen as a Hub

Federal Express Corp. will invest 1 billion francs ($194.5 million) and create 3,000 jobs in 10 years in turning its operation at Charles de Gaulle airport into its main European hub, Transport Minister Bernard Pons said, according to AFX News.

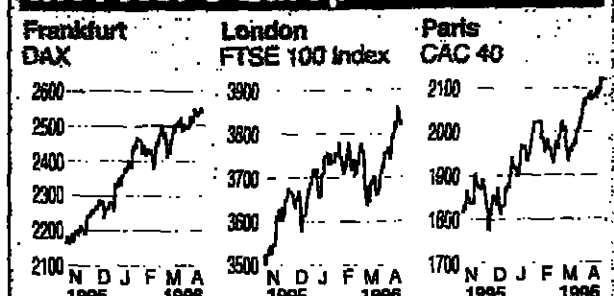
Black Buys Up Telegraph Stock

Agence France-Presse

LONDON — Hollinger Group, controlled by the Canadian media executive baron Conrad Black, said Wednesday it would take back full control of Telegraph PLC by buying back all the newspaper concern's shares it did not already own.

Hollinger, which is based in Toronto and controls about 64 percent of Telegraph, said shareholders had been offered 560 pence ($8.45) a share, a substantial premium to the market price, valuing the company at £763 million. Hollinger said it expected the share repurchase would be completed by mid-July. Mr. Black bought the company, which owns The Daily Telegraph and The Sunday Telegraph, in 1986 and offered some of its shares on the stock exchange in 1992.

Investor's Europe



Exchange	Index	Wednesday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	EOE	553.88	552.25	+0.30
Brussels	Stock Exchange	9,095.97	9,056.51	+0.44
Frankfurt	DAX	2,538.26	2,550.18	-0.47
Copenhagen	Stock Market	399.12	398.78	+0.09
Helsinki	HEX General	1,922.45	1,914.73	+0.40
Oslo	OBX	458.42	456.62	+0.39
London	FTSE 100	3,817.60	3,833.00	-0.40
Madrid	Stock Exchange	358.13	357.07	+0.30
Milan	MIBTEL	10,518.00	10,442.00	+0.73
Paris	CAC 40	2,122.10	2,111.98	+0.48
Stockholm	SX 16	2,048.52	2,057.90	-0.46
Vienna	ATX	1,128.87	1,115.06	+1.24
Zurich	SPI	2,351.47	2,339.94	+0.49

Source: Telekurs — International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- **Allianz Lebensversicherungs AG**, the life-insurance arm of **Allianz AG Holding**, said 1995 net income rose 12.9 percent, to 158 million Deutsche marks ($103.8 million), on growth in new business.
- **Compagnie Financière de Paribas** sold a 15.6 percent stake in **Compagnie Luxembourgeoise pour l'Audio-visuel & la Finance**, which controls **Compagnie Luxembourgeoise de Télédiffusion**, to **Electrafina SA** of Belgium. Electrafina also bought a 1.6 percent stake from **UAP**. The total transaction was valued at 17.3 billion Belgian francs ($554.3 million).
- **Cerus**, the holding company controlled by Carlo de Benedetti, had a net profit of 60 million French francs ($11.7 million) in 1995 thanks to rising sales at **Valeo SA**, an auto-parts maker in which it has a 28 percent stake. The holding company, whose full name is Compagnies Européennes Réunies SA, had a net loss of 675 million francs in 1994.
- **Ciba-Geigy AG** shareholders approved a merger with **Sandoz Ltd.** to create the pharmaceutical giant **Novartis AG.** Sandoz shareholders approved the deal Tuesday. Ciba shareholders also turned down a proposal to reduce the 1995 dividend to help pay costs of the merger.
- **Saab Automobile AB** had a first-quarter loss of 333 million Swedish kronor ($49.6 million) because of weak demand and heavy investment costs. The carmaker, owned by **Investor AB** and **General Motors Corp.**, had a pretax profit of 111 million kronor in the first quarter of 1995.
- **Schibsted A/S**, Norway's biggest newspaper publisher, bought 49.9 percent of the Swedish daily **Aftonbladet** for 370 million Swedish kronor.
- **Stora Kopparbergs Bergslags AB's** first-quarter pretax profit fell 34 percent, to 1.22 billion kronor, on sluggish demand for paper products. *AFP, AFX, AP, Bloomberg, Reuters*

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Wednesday, April 24
Prices in local currencies.
Telekurs

Amsterdam

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
ABN-AMRO	88.30	86.80	87.80	86.70
Aegon	82.40	81.30	82.20	81
Ahold	86.30	84.20	85.50	84.30
Akzo Nobel	195.50	191.60	192.50	194.50
Bols Wess cva	34	33.30	33.60	33.90
CSM cva	81.80	80.30	82.40	81.70
Dordtsche Pet	255.70	254.40	255.30	254.20
DSM	170.70	166.80	166.80	170.40
Elsevier	26.50	25.90	25.90	26.30
Fortis Amev	127	124.40	124.50	124
G-Broc cva	53.70	53	53	53.40
Hagemeyer	117.10	115.40	115.50	116.50
Heineken	367.50	362.50	362.50	366.50
Hoogovens	63.20	62.30	62.50	63.20
Hunt Douglas	109.30	108.40	108.50	108.60
ING cva	132.40	127	131.50	127.50
KLM	59.80	56.80	57.10	60.50
KNP BT	43.90	43.10	43.50	43.70
KPN	63.60	62.80	62.80	63.50
Nedlloyd Gp	37.80	36.90	36.90	37.50
Nutricia	186	180.70	185.50	179.80
Oce Grinten	161	158	158.70	160.70
Pakhoed	46.50	43.20	43.80	46.30
Philips Elec	63	60.80	61.90	60.50
Polygram	102	95	99.70	104.20
Randstad Hdg	118	107	109.60	106.50
Robeco	129.40	129.30	129.30	127.90
Rodamco	48	47.40	48	47.50
Rolinco	139.50	139.20	139.20	137.90
Rorento	96.30	96.10	96.10	96
Royal Dutch	243.70	242.60	243.10	241.90
Stork	48.40	47.80	48.10	48.10
Unilever cva	236.30	234.30	236.30	234.50
VNU	29.10	28.40	28.50	29.20
Wolters Kl cva	193	189.20	190	192.50

EOE index: 553.88
Previous: 552.25

Bangkok

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Adv Info Svc	442	430	440	438
Bangkok Bk F	376	364	370	362
Krung Thai Bk	122	119	122	120
PTT Explor	334	324	334	324
Siam Cement F	1276	1258	1264	1258
Telecomasia	69	68	68.50	69
Thai Airways	58	56.50	56.50	58
Thai Farm Bk F	286	282	282	284
Thai Teleph	59	58	58.50	59
Utd Comm	344	342	342	344

SET index: 1305.68
Previous: 1296.44

Bombay

Tuesday, April 23

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Assoc Cement	3950	3880	3930	3930
Grasim Ind	600	595	600	610
Hindalco Ind	1250	1230	1250	1260
Hindustan lever	765	745	760	760
Indian Hotels	760	745	760	745
ITC	274	263	273	265
Larsen Toubro	269	265	268	269
Reliance Ind	241.50	233	240.75	236.50
Tata Eng Loco	484	474	482	478
Tata Iron St	234.75	225	234.50	226.75

Sensitive index: 3728.76
Previous: 3710.79

Brussels

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Arbed	3575	3550	3550	3570
Barco Ind	5180	5050	5110	5000
BBL	5930	5870	5930	5860
Bekaert	25500	24750	24750	25600
CBR	12350	12300	12350	12325
CMB	2725	2700	2705	2715
Cockerill	173	172	172	173
Colruyt	10200	10050	10100	10180
Delhaize Lion	1494	1482	1494	1476
Electrabel	7050	7020	7030	7020
Electrafina	2935	2910	2910	2965
Fortis AG	3965	3850	3940	3855
GIB	1420	1412	1416	1418
GBL	4150	4110	4150	4130
Gen Banque	10950	10875	10950	10850
Glaverbel	3490	3430	3465	3460
Kredietbank	8800	8760	8760	8760
Mosane	2180	2180	2180	2180
Petrofina	9030	9010	9010	8990
Powerfin	4250	4240	4240	4250
Recticel	315	305	305	305
Royale Belge	6440	6350	6390	6440
Soc Gen Belg	2455	2440	2450	2440
Solvay	18600	18450	18525	18450
Tessenderlo	13500	13425	13450	13300
Tractebel	12925	12850	12875	12825
UCB	54100	53750	53800	54150
Union Miniere	2450	2410	2410	2410

Stock Exchange index: 9095.97
Previous: 9056.51

Copenhagen

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Carlsberg B	331.99	329	331	330
Danisco	298	294	296	296
Den Danske Bk	393	389	390	391
D/S Svendbrg A	187000	186500	186500	185721
D/S 1912 A	130500	129000	129000	128972
East Asiatic Co	124	121	124	124
FLS Ind B	549	540	540	545
ISS Intl Svc B	175	172	173	175
Novo Nordisk B	765.95	759	760	759
Radiometer B	445	440	445	440
Sophus Ber B	701	694	695	698
Tele Danmk B	293	289	291	291
Unidanmark A	276	274	276	274

Stock Market index: 399.32
Previous: 398.76

Frankfurt

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AMB	790	790	820	820
AEG	171	170.50	171	170
Allianz Hdg	2625	2598	2608	2642
Altana	972	962.50	963.50	970
Asko Deutsche	939	927	928	938
Badenwerk	514	514	514	510.50
BASF	432.50	428.50	430	425.50
Bayer Hypo Bk	37.50	37.13	37.50	37.25
Bay.Vereinsbank	44.90	44.55	44.55	45.15
Bayer	524.70	518.50	519.50	523.60
Berliner Kraft	414	412.50	414	413
BHF Bank	38.80	38.50	38.60	39.20
BMW	841.50	838	840.50	839
CKAG Colonia	1060	1055	1055	1070
Commerzbank	335.50	333.50	333.50	336
Daimler Benz	857	848	850.50	846.50
Degussa	575.50	573	574	571
Deutsche Bank	73.90	73.15	73.27	74.20
Dresdner Bank	38.90	38.40	38.40	38.90
Heidelbg Zml	960	955	955	951
Henkel	594	590	590	587.50
Hochtief	597	592	597	594
Hoechst	527	524.70	526	526.50
Holzmann Ph.	486	483	486	492
Karstadt	577	571	571	576
Kaufhof Hdg	493	482.50	482.70	492.50
Linde	980	977	979	980.50
Lufthansa ord	256	252	255.20	258.30
MAN	422.50	418.80	418.80	426.50
Mannesmann	561	557.20	561	564.80
Muench Rueck	2845	2770	2775	2852
Preussag	428	417.50	419.50	420
PWA	283	194	283	196.50
RWE	60.90	60.55	60.65	61.10
SAP pfd	200	197.50	197.70	199.50
Schering	116	115.55	115.95	115.95
Schmalb Lub	258	247	258	245
Siemens	840.70	836.50	839	836.80
Sedzucker	720	720	728	728
Thyssen	289.70	288.50	289	290.30
Veba	77.88	76.90	77.10	77.67
VEW	475	472	475	472
Viag	607.50	604.50	606.50	601.40
Volkswagen	549.50	538.50	539.50	546.75
Wella	727	723	727	722

DAX index: 2538.26
Previous: 2550.18

Helsinki

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Cultor 1	208	207	207	208
Enso-Gutzeit R	38	37.10	37.60	37.30
Huhtamaki IF	160	158	160	160
Kesko	55.10	54	54	54.50
Kone BF	525	520	520	525
Kymmene F	131.40	129	131	130.50
Merita A	9.95	9.70	9.75	9.85
Metra BF	197	194	194	196.50
Metso-Serla B	34.20	33.80	33.80	33.70
Nokia Pfd F	172.50	170.50	171.50	170.50
Outokumpu A	86	85	86	85
Rautaruukki	35	34.30	34.50	34.70
Repola	93.80	92.60	93	93.10
Stockmann A	252	249.10	252	249
Valmet A	62.90	62.20	62.50	62.90

HEX General index: 1922.45
Previous: 1914.73

Hong Kong

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amoy Props	8.80	8.75	8.80	8.80
Bk East Asia	26.35	25.80	26	26.25
Cathay Pacific	13	12.75	12.90	12.80
Cheung Kong	54.75	54.25	54.50	55
China Light	34.20	33.90	34.10	36
Chin Estates	7	6.85	6.95	6.85
Citic Pacific	31.10	30.80	30.90	31
Cons Elec Pwr	12.60	12.50	12.50	12.50
Dao Heng Bk	30.90	30.10	30.30	31.10
First Pacific	10.10	10	10.10	10.65
Great Eagle	22.05	21.90	21.95	22.05
Guangdong Inv	4.80	4.63	4.63	4.78
Guoco Group	40.60	39.20	39.20	40.60
Hang Lung	14.55	14.45	14.55	14.40
Hang Seng Bk	78	77	77.25	77.25
Henderson Inv	6.95	6.85	6.90	6.95
Henderson Ld	55.25	54.75	55	55
HKR Intl	8.55	8.45	8.55	8.45
HK Aircraft	20	19.85	20	19.90
HK China Gas	12.70	12.60	12.60	12.65
HK Electric	25.50	25.40	25.45	25.35
HK Shang Htls	13.30	13.20	13.25	13.10
HK Telecomm	14.95	14.80	14.95	14.90
Hopewell Hdgs	4.60	4.55	4.58	4.58
HSBC Hdgs	116.50	116	116	115.50
Hutchison Wh	47.70	47.40	47.40	47.90
Hysan Dev	24.15	24	24.15	24.05
Johnson El 500	17.50	17.40	17.50	17.40
Miramar Hotel	16.95	16.85	16.85	16.90
Natl Mutual	7	6.85	6.90	7
New World	34.50	34.10	34.40	34.20
Oriental Press	3.75	3.70	3.75	3.68
Orient Telecom	3.20	3	3.20	3.10
Shangri-La	10.65	10.55	10.55	10.60
SHK Props	73.75	73	73.25	73
Shun Tak Hdgs	5.50	5.40	5.45	5.45
Sino Land Co.	7.70	7.60	7.70	7.70
Sth China Post	5.15	5.10	5.15	5.10
Swire Pac A	63.50	63	63	63.25
Tsim Sha Tsui	9.10	9	9.10	9.05
TV Broadcasts	31	30.80	31	31
Wharf Hdgs	28.65	28.30	28.65	28.50
Wheelock	15.55	15.30	15.30	15.50

Hang Seng index: 10898.79
Previous: 10880.10

Jakarta

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Astra Intl	2900	2875	2900	2875
Barito Pacific	2500	2425	2425	2500
Gudang Garm	13925	13000	13175	13825
Indah Kiat	2350	2325	2325	2325
Indocement	9200	9150	9175	9125
Indofood	11025	10925	11000	11000
Indorayon	2950	2900	2950	2900
Indosat	8175	8025	8025	8225
Kalbe Farma	6975	6900	6900	6875
Sampoerna	26000	25750	25750	25850

Composite index: 638.22
Previous: 627.83

Johannesburg

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AngloAm-Corp	288	286	286	286
AngloAm Gold	431	429	429	430
AngloAm Ind	198	198	198	198
Barlow	52.50	50.50	50.50	52.25
C.G. Smith	24.85	24.50	24.50	24.85
De Beers	136	134.50	134.50	136
Driefontein	68.25	67.75	68.25	68
Freegold	41.75	41.50	41.50	41.75
Fst Natl Bk	34	34	34	33.75
Gencor	16.20	15.90	16	16.15
GFSA	140	140	140	140
Iscor	3.99	3.85	3.92	4
Johnnies Ind	55.25	55	55.25	55.50
Kloof Gold	46.50	46	46.25	47
Liberty Life	132	130	130	130
Nedcor	62.25	62.25	62.25	62.75
Rembrandt Gp	36.25	35.50	35.75	36.25
Richemont	63.50	62.75	63	63
Rust Platinum	73.75	73.75	73.75	74
SA Breweries	136.75	132	132.50	135.50
Sappi	55.75	55.25	55.25	55.25
Sasol	45.10	43	43.75	44.80
SBIC	180	180	180	180
Tiger Oats	59	58.25	58.25	58.50

All Market index: 6980.89
Previous: 7013.21

Kuala Lumpur

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Genting	22.30	22	22	22.10
Hicom Hldgs	7.35	7.20	7.30	7.35
Mal Banking	23.70	23.60	23.70	23.70
Mal Intl Ship F	7.95	7.90	7.95	7.95
Public Bank F	7.25	7.25	7.25	7.25
Resorts World	14.30	14.10	14.20	14.30
Sime Darby	6.95	6.85	6.95	6.90
Telekom Mal	22.80	22.50	22.80	22.80
Tenaga	10.50	10.40	10.40	10.40
Utd Engineers	17.40	17.10	17.20	17.40

Composite index: 1169.44
Previous: 1173.88

London

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abbey Natl	5.81	5.61	5.64	5.69
Allied Domecq	5.13	5	5.10	5
Anglian Water	6.13	6.02	6.03	6.14
Argyll Group	3.33	3.29	3.30	3.32
Arjo Wiggins	1.93	1.88	1.90	1.91
Asda Group	1.14	1.11	1.12	1.12
Assoc Br Foods	4.14	4.05	4.07	4.12
BAA	5.55	5.47	5.52	5.52
Barclays	7.45	7.36	7.39	7.46
Bass	7.90	7.83	7.85	7.87
BAT Ind	5.17	5.10	5.11	5.12
Bank Scotland	2.59	2.50	2.52	2.60
BICC	3.54	3.47	3.50	3.52
Blue Circle	3.66	3.53	3.56	3.61
BOC Group	9.10	9.03	9.04	9.06
Boots	6.51	6.39	6.46	6.40
Bowater	4.05	3.98	4	4.01
BPB Ind	3.35	3.30	3.32	3.32
Brit Aerosp	8.74	8.61	8.70	8.62
Brit Airways	5.53	5.46	5.51	5.51
Brit Gas	2.57	2.41	2.43	2.50
Brit Petm	5.94	5.85	5.85	5.88
Brit Steel	2.01	1.98	1.99	1.99
Brit Telecom	3.75	3.68	3.70	3.74
BTR	3.27	3.17	3.19	3.20
Burmah Cast	10.46	10.33	10.37	10.38
Cable Wireless	5.35	5.25	5.26	5.31
Cadbury Schw	5.31	5.20	5.21	5.30
Caradon	2.44	2.28	2.37	2.29
Carlton Comm	4.57	4.50	4.54	4.50
Coats Viyella	1.97	1.90	1.91	1.93
Comml Union	5.90	5.78	5.80	5.77
Courtaulds	4.47	4.38	4.47	4.43
De La Rue	7.43	7.30	7.37	7.29
Eng China Cl	3.05	2.88	2.92	3.01
Enterprise Oil	4.52	4.47	4.51	4.45
Fam Colonial	1.69	1.67	1.69	1.68
Gen Accident	6.45	6.38	6.39	6.37
GEC	3.57	3.50	3.55	3.55
GKN	9.85	9.77	9.81	9.80
Glaxo	8	7.87	7.92	7.90
Granada Gp	8.42	8.32	8.40	8.35
Grand Met	4.56	4.40	4.40	4.48
GRE	2.38	2.33	2.34	2.39
Guinness	4.77	4.70	4.76	4.75
GUS	7.53	7.43	7.48	7.48
Hanson	2.02	1.97	1.98	1.98
Hillsdown Hdg	1.84	1.80	1.83	1.82
HSBC Hldgs	9.96	9.88	9.93	9.87
ICI	9.63	8.54	9.56	9.31
Inchcape	3.12	3.06	3.10	3.07
Kingfisher	5.98	5.75	5.95	5.79
Ladbroke	2.07	1.97	2.06	1.96
Land Sec	6.77	6.68	6.75	6.65
Laporte	7.38	7.24	7.35	7.29
Lasmo	1.95	1.92	1.93	1.92
Legal Genl Grp	7.23	7.18	7.22	7.22
Lloyds Abbey	5.42	5.36	5.41	5.43
Lloyds TSB Gp	3.24	3.19	3.19	3.22
London Elec	8.50	7.88	8.07	8.46
Lucas Ind	2.27	2.18	2.23	2.18
Marks Spencer	4.57	4.35	4.53	4.54
MEPC	4.34	4.28	4.32	4.32
Mercury Asset	8.98	8.88	8.90	9
Midlands Elec	4.17	3.55	3.70	4.09
Natl Power	6.17	5.35	5.62	5.94
NatWest	6.33	6.23	6.24	6.32
News Intl	3.31	3.30	3.31	3.30
Utd Utilities	6.35	6.18	6.22	6.29
Nthern Foods	1.84	1.80	1.83	1.80
P&O	5.35	5.25	5.28	5.27
Pearson	7.26	7.12	7.23	7.20
Pilkington	2.15	2.11	2.15	2.14
Powergen	6.21	5.30	5.69	6.05
Prudential	4.57	4.50	4.56	4.55
Rank Org	5.44	5.35	5.39	5.40
Reckitt Colm	7.20	7.05	7.08	7.12
Redland	4.34	4.16	4.33	4.23
Reed Intl	11.61	11.26	11.42	11.57
Rentokil	3.61	3.54	3.58	3.59
Reuters Hdgs	7.76	7.62	7.70	7.64
RMC Group	10.79	10.69	10.79	10.72
Rolls Royce	2.43	2.37	2.41	2.37
Royal Bk Scot	5.17	5.08	5.11	5.17
RTZ reg	10.46	10.35	10.38	10.44
Royal Insur	3.68	3.62	3.66	3.65
Sainsbury	3.66	3.60	3.62	3.66
Schroders	12.30	12.27	12.29	12.30
Scot Newcastle	6.85	6.78	6.83	6.82
Scot Power	3.97	3.71	3.78	3.92
Sears	1.01	0.98	1	0.99
Severn Trent	6.07	5.85	5.91	6
Shell Trsp reg	8.71	8.62	8.64	8.65
Siebe	8.73	8.58	8.60	8.68
Smith Nephew	1.88	1.85	1.88	1.82
Smith (WH)	4.98	4.93	4.98	4.93
SmithKline cIA	6.58	6.37	6.44	6.44
Smiths Ind	7.11	7.03	7.08	7.87
Sthern Elec	9.12	9	8.27	9.02
Stand Charter	6.22	6.13	6.16	6.16
Sun Alliance	3.58	3.53	3.56	3.55
Tate & Lyle	4.88	4.84	4.88	4.88
Tesco	2.89	2.80	2.82	2.83
Thames Water	5.85	5.70	5.70	5.84
Thorn EMI	18.55	18.22	18.35	18.37
3i Group	4.56	4.49	4.56	4.52
TI Group	5.37	5.30	5.33	5.38
Tomkins	2.65	2.60	2.62	2.63
Unilever	12.25	12.17	12.25	12.21
Utd Biscuits	2.42	2.37	2.42	2.41
Utd News	6.90	6.76	6.85	6.76
Vendome uts	5.90	5.78	5.90	5.88
Vodafone	2.59	2.54	2.59	2.56
Whitbread	7.50	7.45	7.49	7.47
Williams Hdgs	3.52	3.47	3.48	3.50
Wolseley	4.67	4.60	4.64	4.63
Zeneca	14.18	13.84	13.87	13.86

FT-SE 100 index: 3817.60
Previous: 3833.00

Madrid

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Acerinox	15330	15000	15300	15100
ACESA	1350	1330	1335	1335
Argentaria	5420	5340	5380	5370
BBV	4935	4905	4930	4925
Banesto	843	832	839	843
Bankinter	13420	13360	13420	13400
Bco Centro Hisp	2685	2670	2680	2665
Bco Exterior	3115	3075	3075	3075
Bco Popular	22500	21700	22270	21720
Bco Santander	6100	6050	6050	6110
CEPSA	3970	3925	3970	3950
Corp Mapfre	6630	6530	6618	6530
Dragados	1825	1805	1810	1820
Endesa	7850	7760	7780	7790
FECSA	886	868	876	871
Fomento Const	11020	10930	11000	10960
Gas Natural	23400	23170	23200	23340
Hidroel Cantab	4230	4215	4215	4210
Iberdrola	1245	1235	1235	1235
Pryca	2950	2925	2935	2930
Repsol	4620	4585	4615	4580
Sevillana Elec	995	985	992	985
Tabacalera	5850	5800	5840	5750
Telefonica	2165	2135	2150	2135
Union Fenosa	747	729	745	734
Valenc Cement	1455	1455	1455	1460

Stock Exchange index: 358.13
Previous: 357.07

Manila

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ayala A	26	25.50	26	26
Ayala Land	42	40.50	41	42
Manila Elec A	159	156	158	156
Metro Bank	710	705	710	705
Petron	11.25	10.75	10.75	11.25
Phil Long Dist	1445	1415	1420	1440
San Miguel A	46	45	46	45.50
San Miguel B	81.50	80.50	80.50	81
SM Prime Hdg	8.20	7.70	7.90	8.10

PSE index: 2969.33
Previous: 2976.60

Mexico

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alfa A	112.10	107.90	111.90	107.90
Cemex B	32.15	31.50	31.90	31.90
Cifra C	10.36	10.02	10.16	10.06
Empresas ICA	105.40	102.80	105.00	103.40
Emp Moderna	34.60	34.00	34.60	34.40
Femsa	23.90	22.80	23.90	23.20
Gpo Carso A1	56.60	55.20	56.60	55.70
Televisa CPO	120.00	116.00	119.80	117.70
TelMex L	13.46	13.16	13.44	13.40
Tribasa CPO	24.70	24.30	24.30	24.50

Bolsa index: 3252.87
Previous: 3217.86

Milan

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alleanza Assic	14515	14250	14515	14490
Bco Comm Ital	3595	3510	3585	3585
Bco Naz Agricol	960	930	955	931
Bco Naz Lavoro	12500	12200	12500	12450
Bco di Roma	1610	1571	1600	1590
Bco Ambrosian	4700	4500	4560	4650
Benetton	18895	18400	18595	18795
Credito Italiano	1985	1945	1985	1970
Fiat	5590	5400	5580	5490
Fondiaria	7458	7280	7425	7415
Generali Assic	39650	38950	39450	39550
IFIL	5220	5100	5220	5195
Italcementi	11305	11050	11305	11200
Italgas	5275	5130	5275	5300
Mediobanca	11175	10910	11030	11010
Montedison	932	896	920	915
Olivetti	940	908	940	900
Pirelli	2430	2390	2415	2425
RAS	17400	17105	17220	17300
Rinascente	10800	10630	10800	10800
S Paolo Torino	10495	10135	10225	10515
SME	1740	1737	1740	1745
Standa	17355	17300	17300	17300
Stet	5240	5090	5240	5180
Telecom Italia	3070	2985	3070	3050
Toro Assic	21800	21350	21650	21400

MIB Telematico index: 10518.00
Previous: 10442.00

Montreal

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alcan I	18.65	18.40	18.40	18½
Bank Montreal	32.70	32.55	32.60	32.60
Bce Mob Com	44¾	44¾	44¾	44.95
Cdn Tire A	16.60	16½	16.60	16½
Cdn Util A	26.20	26.15	26.15	26.15
Cascades	6½	6.40	6.40	6½
CT Finl Svc	26½	26½	26½	26.48
Extendicare	35¼	35.30	35.30	35.20
Gaz Metro	15.20	15.10	15.20	15.15
Gt-West Lifeco	30	29½	30	30½
Hees Intl Bcp	16	15.90	16	15.85
Hudsons Bay	19.20	18.90	19.10	19.15
Imasco	25¾	25½	25.65	25.65
Investors Grp	18.15	18.15	18.15	18.20
Loblaw Cos	32.95	32.95	32.95	33.20
Molson A	24¾	24.60	24.60	24.65
Natl Bk Canada	11.35	11¼	11.30	11.40
Oshawa A	22.55	22.55	22.55	23
Pancdn Petlm	52¾	52¾	52¾	53
Power Corp	20.45	20.40	20.40	20.45
Power Finl	35¼	35.10	35.20	35¼
Quebecor B	21.65	21¼	21.45	21.60
Rogers Comm B	12.65	12.60	12.65	12.65
Royal Bk Cda	32.70	32.40	32.55	32.65
Sears Canada	7.10	7	7	7.05
Shell Cda A	46.80	46.80	46.80	46¾
Southam	15.70	15.60	15.60	15¾
Stelco A	6.60	6½	6.60	6.60
Trilon Finl A	5.10	5	5	5

Industrials index: 2578.80
Previous: 2576.49

Oslo

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Aker A	124	120	123	121
Bergesen Dy B	117	115	116	116
Christiania Bk	15.80	15.60	15.80	15.70
Den Norske Bk	19.50	19	19.10	19.40
Dt Norsk Luft	330	325	328	328
Dyno Indust	143.50	143	143	143.50
Elkem	91.50	89	91.50	90
Hafslund A	193.50	188	193.50	188.50
Kvaerner	271	264	271	266.50
Leif Hoegh	90	90	90	89
Norsk Hydro	304	301	303	305.50
Norske Skog A	207	204	205	207
Orkla	330	328.50	329.50	328.50
Rieber B	137.50	137.50	137.50	138
Saga Petlm B	84.50	84	84.50	84
Schibsted	89	88.50	89	89
UniStorebr A	32	31.70	32	31.70

OBX index: 458.42
Previous: 456.62

Paris

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Accor	793	770	773	792
AGF	142	137.10	140.50	138.20
Air Liquide	924	910	923	917
Alcatel Alsth	491.10	485.20	487	486.50
Axa	308	305.10	305.80	303
Bancaire	578	540	571	537
BNP	205.70	203.10	204	203
Bouygues	508	504	504	509
Canal Plus	1233	1213	1232	1211
Carrefour	3946	3890	3896	3867
CCF	245.90	243	245	244
Credit Local cl	391	386	386	386.50
Credit Lyon PC	187.90	177.90	183	183
Crown Cork Seal	243	239.50	242.50	236
Danone	775	764	769	775
Elf-Aquitaine	382	379	382	380
Eridania BS	867	850	864	852
Euro Disney	16	15.65	15.65	15.60
Eurotunnel uts	5.60	5.30	5.50	5.30
Gen. Eaux	566	558	566	560
Havas	442	432.10	434.30	437.50
Lafarge Cop	342	337	339.80	338
Legrand	958	932	937	958
L'Oreal	1595	1572	1583	1569
LVMH	1301	1293	1299	1290
Lyon. Eaux	530	520	523	527
Michelin B	259.70	257	257.10	258.90
Navig Mixte	742	740	740	742
Paribas A	326.50	324	326	326
Pechiney SA	242	235	235	243
Pernod Ricard	317.70	315.30	315.60	315.90
Peugeot Cit	748	735	738	742
Pinault-Print	1520	1425	1500	1423
Promodes	1447	1415	1440	1427
Renault	157.10	153.40	154.20	154.80
Rh-Poulenc A	127.60	126.10	126.70	127
Roussel-Uclaf	1250	1213	1218	1240
Sanofi	404	395	400.10	392.10
Schneider	248.40	246	246.20	247
Ste Generale	569	561	565	563
St Gobain	645	639	644	639
St Louis	1514	1491	1509	1499
Suez	212	208.50	209	209.20
Thomson CSF	144.80	138.80	138.80	142.20
Total B	353.10	341	348	349.60
UAP	110	107.90	108.60	109.30
Valeo	295.90	286	290.20	285

CAC-40 index: 2122.10
Previous: 2111.98

São Paulo

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bco Brasil Pfd	10.81	10.05	10.31	10.79
Banespa Pfd	3.95	3.59	3.80	3.50
Bradesco Pfd	10.45	10.10	10.30	10.15
Brahma Pfd	485.00	480.00	483.00	480.00
Cemig Pfd	24.82	23.75	23.75	24.10
CESP Pfd	32.80	32.30	32.30	32.80
Eletrobras B	259.00	254.00	254.00	258.00
Itaubanco Pfd	352.00	335.00	352.00	337.00
Light	346.00	343.00	343.00	344.00
Paranapan Pfd	10.70	10.30	10.36	10.30
Petrobras Pfd	117.50	114.00	115.98	117.00
Sid Nacional	28.30	28.10	28.10	28.50
Souza Cruz	7.65	7.59	7.65	7.60
Telebras Pfd	54.10	53.10	53.40	53.10
Telesp Pfd	169.00	167.50	168.50	175.00
Usiminas Pfd	1.120	1.10	1.10	1.110
CVRD Pfd	19.36	19.20	19.20	19.26

Bovespa index: 59411.50
Previous: 58619.20

Seoul

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Daewoo Heavy	8600	8400	8500	8600
Hyundai Eng	39800	39200	39600	39700
Hyundai Motor	39000	38000	38800	38600
Korea El Pwr	32200	31300	32200	31500
Korea Mob Tel	747000	715000	747000	705000
LG Electronics	25600	24000	25400	24300
Pohang Iron St	59300	58200	59300	58500
Samsung Elec	107000	102500	107000	101500
Samsung Hvy	17100	16600	16800	17100
Yukong	28500	27800	28200	28000

Composite index: 954.61
Previous: 948.55

Singapore

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Cerebos Pac	12.40	12.40	12.40	12.40
City Devlts	12.40	11.90	12	12.20
Cycle Carriage	16.10	15.80	15.90	16
Dairy Farm Int *	0.95	0.94	0.94	0.93
DBS	9.70	9.55	9.60	9.65
DBS Land	5.50	5.20	5.20	5.35
Fraser & Neave	15.30	15	15.10	15.10
HK Land *	2.16	2.13	2.15	2.15
Hong Leong Fin	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.88
Jard Matheson *	7.95	7.75	7.75	7.80
Jard Strategic *	3.24	3.14	3.20	3.16
Keppel	12.60	12.40	12.60	12.40
Natsteel	2.74	2.73	2.73	2.72
Neptune Orient	1.58	1.56	1.57	1.55
OCBC foreign	19.30	18.90	19.10	18.90
O'Sea Union Bk	7	7	7	7
Sembawang	7.55	7.45	7.50	7.55
Sing Airlines F	13.90	13.70	13.90	13.70
Sing Petlm	1.79	1.78	1.78	1.80
Sing Press F	26.80	26.50	26.80	26.40
ST Auto F	3.04	3	3	3.06
ST Ship	2.51	2.50	2.50	2.50
Sing Telecomm	3.42	3.42	3.42	3.40
Straits Steam	4.92	4.86	4.86	4.96
Utd Industrial	1.46	1.45	1.45	1.43
Utd O'Sea Bk F	13.70	13.50	13.50	13.50
Wing Tai Hdgs	3.70	3.54	3.60	3.68

*: in U.S. dollars.
Straits Times index: 2381.18
Previous: 2378.73

Stockholm

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AGA BF	109.50	108	108	109.50
Asea AF	695	687	693	690
AssiDoman F	157.50	155	156	157.50
Astra AF	305	301	303.50	305.50
Atlas Copco AF	129.50	127.50	129	130.50
Avesta F	74	72	72.50	73.50
Electrolux BF	343	338	341	341
Ericsson BF	136.50	133	133.50	135.50
Hennes BF	471	466	470	469
Incentive AF	360	355	357	354
Investor BF	282.50	260	280	281
Kinnevik BF	253	250	252.50	251.50
MoDo BF	363	354	357	364
Sandvik BF	150	148.50	149.50	149.50
SCA BF	132.50	130	131.50	132
S-E Banken AF	52.50	51.50	52	52.50
Skandia Fors F	158	156	157.50	156.50
Skanska BF	217.50	213	216.50	214
SKF BF	157	155	156.50	155
SSAB BF	85	82	83	86
Stora AF	93	90	92	93
Sv Handles AF	147	139.50	140.50	143
Sydkraft AF	150	140.50	150	150
Trelleborg BF	92	90.50	91.50	91.50
Volvo BF	159	151.50	159	155

SX 16 index: 2048.52
Previous: 0060.00

Sydney

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amcor	9.14	9.06	9.06	9.06
ANZ Bking	6.28	6.15	6.24	6.14
BHP	19.74	19.55	19.62	19.51
Boral	3.37	3.32	3.34	3.31
Brambles Ind.	17.40	16.90	17.38	16.85
Burns Philp	2.70	2.68	2.68	2.68
CBA	10.59	10.50	10.51	10.54
CC Amatil	14.24	13.94	14	13.95
Coles Myer	4.60	4.56	4.60	4.56
Comalco	7.95	7.85	7.85	7.90
CRA Ltd	20.65	20.45	20.60	20.34
CSR	4.55	4.47	4.49	4.46
Fosters Brew	2.35	2.33	2.33	2.32
GIO Australia	2.98	2.93	2.93	2.94
Goodman Fld	1.29	1.27	1.28	1.28
ICI Australia	12.05	11.90	12	11.88
John Fairfax	2.93	2.90	2.90	2.90
Lend Lease	19.35	19.17	19.27	19.16
Mayne Nickless	7.39	7.31	7.39	7.29
MIM Hdgs	1.92	1.88	1.90	1.93
Nat Aust Bank	11.50	11.35	11.35	11.34
News Corp	7.44	7.33	7.39	7.22
North Ltd	3.86	3.78	3.85	3.77
Pacific Dunlop	3.13	3.07	3.07	3.10
Pioneer Intl	3.88	3.75	3.81	3.74
Placer Pacific	2.46	2.43	2.43	2.40
Santos	4.49	4.45	4.46	4.45
Southcorp	3.43	3.38	3.38	3.42
Wesfarmers	8.02	7.95	8	7.96
Wstrn Mining	9.72	9.47	9.52	9.45
Westfield Trt	2.24	2.22	2.24	2.22
Westpac Bking	6.27	6.16	6.25	6.19
Woodside Pet	7.47	7.37	7.39	7.32
Woolworths	3.24	3.21	3.22	3.23

All Ordinaries index: 2316.20
Previous: 2300.00

Taipei

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Asia Cement	47.90	47.30	47.80	47.60
Cathay Life Ins	170	165	170	162
Chang Hwa Bk	150	146.50	148	146.50
China Steel	26.20	25.60	25.70	25.30
China Trust	55	54	54.50	53.50
Evergreen	52	49.70	51.50	49.50
Far East Text	26.70	26.20	26.20	26.50
First Bank	151	147	149	147
Formosa CF	26.80	26	26	26.40
Hua Nan Bk	141	137.50	138.50	136.50
Hualon Teijran	20.60	20.20	20.40	20
ICBC	87	85	86.50	84
President Ent	38.50	37.60	38.10	37.60
Taiwan Cmnt	51	50	50.50	50
Tatung	53.50	52.50	52.50	52.50

Stock Market index: 5986.81
Previous: 5907.81

Tokyo

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ajinomoto	1290	1270	1270	1270
All Nippon Air	1200	1170	1200	1170
Asahi Bank	1350	1320	1350	1320
Asahi Chem	810	795	800	816
Asahi Glass	1300	1270	1270	1290
Bk Tokyo Mitsu	2430	2400	2420	2420
Bk Yokohama	896	880	895	880
Bridgestone	1900	1880	1890	1860
Canon	2150	2120	2130	2120
Chiba Bank	945	935	935	934
Chubu Elec	2650	2630	2650	2640
Chugoku Elec	2490	2480	2480	2490
Daiei	1490	1460	1490	1460
Daiichi Kang	2160	2120	2160	2120
Daiwa Bank	821	800	820	799
Daiwa House	1670	1650	1660	1650
Daiwa Sec	1630	1620	1630	1610
Fanuc	4610	4540	4580	4510
Fuji Bank	2280	2250	2280	2260
Fuji Photo	3240	3210	3240	3190
Fujitsu	1090	1070	1080	1070
Hitachi	1130	1110	1130	1110
Honda Motor	2390	2360	2380	2360
IBJ	2850	2820	2840	2850
IHI	519	513	518	517
Itochu	802	795	800	800
Ito-Yokado	6160	6100	6130	6140
JAL	817	800	809	804
Jusco	3250	3190	3250	3190
Kajima	1180	1150	1160	1170
Kansai Elec	2550	2530	2550	2540
Kao	1410	1400	1410	1410
Kawa Steel	395	388	395	389
KDD	10300	10100	10200	10200
Kinki Nipp Ry	810	807	807	811
Kirin Brewery	1420	1400	1420	1400
Kobe Steel	338	331	338	331
Komatsu	1080	1050	1080	1060
Kubota	745	733	735	744
Kyocera	7960	7880	7940	7860
Kyushu Elec	2590	2560	2590	2560
LTCB	930	903	920	895
Marubeni	624	615	621	617
Marui	2310	2280	2300	2250
Matsu Elec Ind	1850	1830	1840	1830
Matsu Elec Wk	1170	1150	1160	1160
Mitsubishi	1480	1460	1470	1480
Mitsubishi Ch	582	576	580	578
Mitsubishi El	825	815	818	815
Mitsubishi Est	1460	1450	1460	1440
Mitsubishi Hvy	941	937	940	941
Mitsubishi Mat	945	936	937	947
Mitsubishi Tr	1840	1820	1820	1820
Mitsui	994	989	994	992
Mitsui Fudosn	1380	1360	1380	1370
Mitsui Trust	1280	1250	1260	1240
Murata Mfg	3990	3930	3930	3960
NEC	1330	1310	1330	1310
New Oji Paper	956	942	952	952
Nikko Sec	1350	1330	1350	1320
Nintendo	7880	7700	7800	7600
Nipp Credit Bk	422	414	422	415
Nipp Express	1090	1070	1090	1080
Nippon Oil	738	731	738	735
Nippon Paper	749	744	746	744
Nippon Steel	381	378	381	379
Nippon Yusen	648	644	647	645
Nippondenso	2270	2230	2260	2240
Nissan Motor	879	872	879	870
NKK	331	326	329	327
Nomura Sec	2340	2310	2330	2320
NTT	8210a	8100a	8200a	8080a
Obayashi	998	982	986	986
Odakyu El Ry	752	742	752	748
Ono Pharm	3920	3810	3890	3820
Osaka Gas	400	396	398	398
Ricoh	1210	1190	1210	1200
Sakura Bk	1240	1220	1230	1220
Sankyo	2540	2500	2520	2510
Sanwa Bank	2190	2160	2170	2160
Sanyo Elec	677	663	675	663
Secom	7280	7160	7240	7130
Seibu Rwy	6300	6160	6210	6300
Sekisui House	1300	1280	1290	1290
Seven-Eleven	7360	7270	7300	7330
Sharp	1830	1810	1820	1790
Shimizu	1210	1180	1200	1200
Shin-etsu Ch	2280	2240	2280	2240
Shizuoka Bk	1400	1380	1400	1400
Sony	6860	6790	6800	6820
Sumitomo	1230	1220	1230	1220
Sumitomo Bk	2250	2220	2240	2220
Sumit Chem	555	545	555	554
Sumitomo Elec	1510	1480	1490	1480
Sumit Metal	342	338	341	339
Sumit Trust	1540	1510	1510	1520
Taisei	818	803	805	808
Taisho Pharm	2220	2180	2190	2200
Takeda Chem	1800	1770	1780	1790
TDK	6110	6080	6100	6080
Tohoku El Pwr	2570	2550	2570	2570
Tokai Bank	1350	1330	1340	1330
Tokio Marine	1450	1440	1450	1440
Tokyo El Pwr	2850	2820	2850	2840
Tokyo Gas	398	388	398	387
Tokyu	854	842	854	844
Tonen	1620	1600	1610	1610
Toppan Print	1630	1600	1620	1610
Toray Ind	712	705	707	706
Toshiba	831	823	831	826
Toyo Seikan	3950	3860	3920	3820
Toyo Trust	1120	1080	1110	1080
Toyota Motor	2390	2370	2370	2380
Yamaichi Sec	822	808	820	813
Yamanouchi	2460	2430	2460	2420
Yasuda Fire	835	824	833	823
Yasuda Trust	703	694	698	706

a: x 100
Nikkei 225 index: 22282.05
Previous: 22119.88

Toronto

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abitibi Price	20.65	20	20.10	20.80
Air Canada	5.40	5.30	5.35	5.40
Alberta Energy	26.70	26.60	26.70	26.65
Alcan Alum	43.95	43	43	43.90
Avenor A	22.65	22.55	22.65	22.65
Bk Nova Scotia	30.90	30¾	30.80	30.80
Barrick Gold	41.15	40.80	40.90	41.10
BCE	54.15	52.85	54.15	52.95
BC Telecomm	25.65	25.45	25.65	25½
Bombardier B	19.70	19.15	19¾	19.70
Brascan A	27.30	27.15	27.20	27.30
Cameco	72.95	72.35	72½	72.90
CIBC	41.80	41.60	41.70	41¾
Cdn Airlines	3.45	3¼	3¼	3.40
Cdn Natl Res	22.95	22.70	22.95	22¾
Cdn Occid Pet	49.60	49.20	49.35	49.55
Cdn Pacific	27.20	26½	27.20	26.55
Cominco	33¼	33.10	33¼	33.15
Consumers Gas	20.70	20.45	20.70	20.40
Dofasco	21.65	21.35	21½	21.70
Doman Ind B	10.40	10.05	10.05	10
Du Pont Cda A	33.90	33	33¾	32.85
Echo Bay Min	17.90	17.80	17.90	18
Empire Co. A	12¼	12¼	12¼	12¼
Falconbridge	31¾	31¼	31½	31.45
Fletcher Chall A	19.40	19	19.10	19.35
Franco Nevada	78.95	77	78.95	77
Guardian Cap A	9	9	9	9
Hemlo Gold	17.60	17½	17.55	17.60
Horsham	19.40	19.20	19.30	19.30
Imperial Oil	54.85	54½	54.70	54.85
Inco	45.65	45	45	45.40
IPL Energy	33.10	32.95	33.10	32.95
Laidlaw A	14.20	14	14	14.30
Laidlaw B	14.20	13.95	14.05	14.20
Loewen Group	42.10	41¼	42.05	41.45
Ldn Insur Gp	28	27.60	27.60	27¾
Macmill Bld	18	17.80	17.95	17.95
Magna Intl A	64.90	64	64½	64¾
Maple Leaf Fds	7.05	7	7.05	7
Moore	26.10	25¾	26.10	25.80
Newbridge Net	90	87	88	89.80
Noranda Inc	31	30.60	30¾	31
Noranda Forest	9.60	9.40	9.55	9.45
Norcen Energy	21.95	21.85	21.90	21.90
Nthern Telecom	71.10	70¾	70.90	70¾
Nova	13.15	13	13.15	13.10
Onex	14¼	14.10	14.10	14.75
Placer Dome	38.35	37.95	37.95	38¼
Potash Sask	89.20	87.20	87.70	86.20
Provigo	8½	8.45	8.45	8.45
Quebecor Print	23.60	23.40	23.45	23½
Renaissance	35.85	35.40	35.45	35.80
Rio Algom	27.30	27	27¼	27.35
Seagram Co	46½	45¾	46.10	45.90
Stone Consold	17.85	17½	17.65	17.70
Talisman Eny	32	31.45	31.85	32
Teleglobe	20.10	20.05	20.05	20.10
Telus	16.70	16.55	16.65	16.65
Thomson	22½	22¼	22.40	22.30
TorDom Bank	23.80	23.70	23.80	23¾
Transalta	14.45	14.30	14.35	14.40
TransCda Pipe	19.20	19.05	19.20	19.10
Utd Dominion	33	32.70	33	32.95
Westburn	9.55	9½	9½	9.85
Westcoast Eny	20¾	20.45	20.70	20.45
Weston	49	48½	48.90	49

TSE Industrials index: 5116.31
Previous: 5116.94

Vienna

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Austrian Airlines	1855	1855	1855	1845
Brau-Un Goess	663	656	659	656
Bund Vers Pfd	400	400	400	402
Creditanst PC	1520	1520	1490	1490
EA-Generali	3560	3530	3560	3530
EVN	1550	1540	1540	1530
Interunfall	1558	1558	1560	1560
Lenzing	740	732	739	730
Leykam	375	365	365	370
Mayr-Melnhof	507	501	507	501
OEMV	1056	1048	1056	1040
Oest Brau-Bet	555	551	552	547
Oest Elektriz	752	749	752	750
VA Tech	1454	1439	1454	1418
Wienerberger	2140	2125	2140	2140

ATX index: 1128.87
Previous: 1117.85

Wellington

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Air N Zeald B	3.81	3.78	3.80	3.80
Brierly Invt	1.39	1.38	1.38	1.37
Carter Holt ord	3.39	3.36	3.38	3.36
Fernz	4.54	4.54	4.54	4.54
Fisher Paykel	4.86	4.80	4.80	4.86
FC Forest	1.92	1.88	1.89	1.90
Goodman Fder	1.48	1.45	1.46	1.45
Indep News	5.35	5.32	5.35	5.37
Lion Nathan	3.58	3.55	3.57	3.54
Nat Gas note	2.11	2.09	2.09	2.11
NZ Refining	25.75	25.50	25.75	25.50
Telecom NZ	6.16	6.11	6.13	6.13
Trust Bk NZ	2.97	2.95	2.96	2.95
Wilson Horton	9.65	9.60	9.60	9.65

NZSE-40 index: 2141.66
Previous: 2135.06

Zurich

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Adia B	275	266	268	265
Alusuisse R	1006	996	998	994
Ares-Serono B	877	871	871	878
Baer Hdg B	1365	1320	1355	1320
Baloise Hdg R	2720	2660	2710	2680
BBC B	1500	1491	1496	1488
Bk Vision	1530	1515	1525	1515
Bobst B	1960	1950	1950	1950
Ciba Geigy R	1477	1462	1477	1462
CS Holdings R	110.75	109.75	109.75	110
Elektrowatt B	498	492	493	491
Fischer B	1480	1465	1475	1465
Hilti PC	945	940	940	945
Holderbank B	957	942	950	940
Merkur Hdg R	258	254	256	257
Nestle R	1389	1379	1380	1376
Oerlikon R	138	135.50	136	136
Pargesa Hld B	1450	1450	1450	1450
PharmVisn B	6250	6210	6225	6220
Pirelli B	158	158	158	158
Roche Hdg PC	9870	9630	9825	9790
Sandoz R	1395	1370	1382	1372
SBC B	469	458	467	455
Schindler B	1390	1370	1380	1360
SGS B	2845	2720	2735	2860
SMH B	819	790	805	773
Sulzer R	855	836	840	827
Swiss Reins R	1324	1314	1314	1310
Swissair R	1250	1245	1247	1245
UBS B	1234	1223	1229	1226
Winterthur B	794	783	786	785
Zurich Assur R	345	339	342	338

SPI index: 2351.47
Previous: 2339.94

NYSE

Wednesday's 4 p.m. Close

Nationwide prices, not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
The Associated Press.

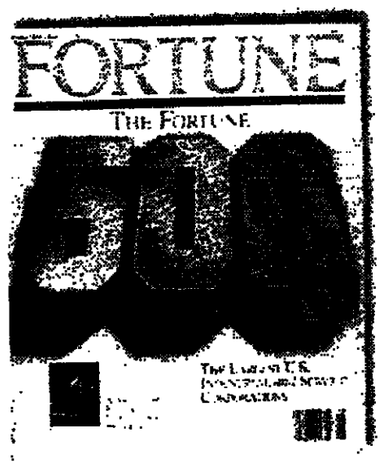
Self-winding wristwatch in 18K gold with power-reserve indicator, moon-phase display and date calendar. Ref. 3150.

MONTRES BREGUET SA
AVENUE GENERAL - GUISAN 46A 1009 PULLY - SWITZERLAND
TEL. 41 21 728 20 01 - FAX 41 21 728 24 84

Available at the finest jewellers worldwide. For information call:
France: 33 1 42 60 69 34 • Germany: 49 211 32 04 46 • Hong Kong: 85 22 527 30 46
Italy: 39 2 760 144 03 • Japan: 81 3 5441 4562 • Singapore: 65 235 74 11 • Spain: 34 1 532 10 07
Thailand: 66 2 254 45 28 • United Kingdom: 44 171 416 41 60 • USA: 1 201 507 44 00

Continued on Page 23

هكذا من الأهرام



6 out of the top 10 companies use SAP software.

7 of the 10 most profitable companies use SAP software.

9 of the 10 companies with the highest market value use SAP software.

7 of the top 10 pharmaceutical companies use SAP software.

7 of the top 10 computer companies use SAP software.

7 of the top 10 petroleum companies use SAP software.

6 of the top 10 electronics companies use SAP software.

8 of the top 10 chemical companies use SAP software.

8 of the top 10 food companies use SAP software.

It seems America's most successful companies
have more in common than making
it onto FORTUNE's latest list.

Over 6,000 companies in 50 countries use SAP software, from multi-billion, multi-national firms to single-site companies with $50 million in annual sales. To find out how SAP software can help your company work the way you've always wanted it to work, call 610 725 4155. Or visit us at http://www.sap-ag.de.

SAP
Business Process
Software

Advertisement

INTERNATIONAL FUNDS

April 24, 1996

For information on how to list your fund, fax Katy Houri at (33-1) 41 43 92 12.

The data ("the Data") in the list above ("the list") is the n.a.v. supplied by the fund groups ("the Fund Groups") listed therein. The data is delivered by each Fund Group to Micropal SA (Tel Paris 33-1-40-26-09-09), collated and reformatted into the List and then transmitted by Micropal to IHT. Micropal and IHT do not warrant the quality or accuracy of the List, the Data of the performance of lides of the Fund Groups and will not be liable for the List, the Data of Fund Groups to any extent. The List is not and shall not be deemed to be an offer by IHT or Micropal to sell securities or investments of any kind. Investments can fail as well as rise. Past performance does not guarantee future success. It is advisable to seek advice from a qualified independent adviser before investing.

Fund facts via fax.

The International Herald Tribune iFAXFUNDS service is an instant response fax service bringing you fund information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from anywhere in the world.

1. Locate the five digit code for the corresponding group in the list above. ★★★ User Instructions

2. From the handset of your fax machine, dial (852) 172 75 545 if you are calling from outside HK, or 170 675 545 if you are calling from Hong Kong.

3. Follow the voice instruction, and input the five digit document code followed by the hatch (#) key.

4. Press the star (*) key to receive the document. You can retrieve up to five separate documents through only one access to the system.

5. Finally, after you hear the tone, press "start" on your fax machine and replace the handset. Your information will be delivered instantly.

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

NORTH STAR FUNDS ARE NOW LISTED ON THIS PAGE

North Star Group of Companies

هكذا من الأصل

ASIA/PACIFIC

Property Question in Singapore

Lee Kuan Yew Says He Received Unsolicited Discounts

Agence France-Presse

SINGAPORE — Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew and his son, Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, disclosed in a statement published Wednesday that they had received unsolicited discounts from a property company on luxury condominiums.

The two leaders said they had neither sought preferential treatment from Hotel Properties Ltd. nor been asked for favors by that company, a listed firm that has been criticized for tardiness in reporting sales of units to its directors and related parties.

One of Hotel Properties' directors, Lee Suan Yew, is a brother of Lee Kuan Yew, who was prime minister from 1959 until he stepped down in 1990 and was succeeded by the current prime minister, Goh Chok Tong.

The Stock Exchange of Singapore, in a rare public rebuke, criticized executives of Hotel Properties on Monday but said the company had broken no laws. Nevertheless, the exchange tightened rules on discounted sales of units to directors of property companies and their relatives.

It was unclear why the two Lees had chosen to issue the statement. There were no reports linking either of them to the problems of Hotel Properties, but the Singapore government is known to guard jealously its reputation for honesty. It was not known how much the Lees had paid for their condominiums. Press reports here said some units at the two developments cost several million Singapore dollars each.

The island's leading daily, The Straits Times, carried a joint statement on its front page Wednesday from the senior minister, known as SM, and the deputy prime minister, or DPM. It said they had informed Mr. Goh of the purchases.

"Neither SM nor DPM sought any preferential treatment from HPL in these purchases," the joint statement said. "HPL and its associates have not sought any favors from SM or DPM."

The two Lees last year purchased one unit each at Nassim Jade and at Scotts 28, which are Hotel Properties projects still under construction in fashionable areas off Singapore's embassy row and the Orchard Road shopping district.

Regarding Nassim Jade, the joint statement said Hotel Properties "unilaterally gave SM Lee a 7 percent discount and DPM Lee a 12 percent discount, for different-sized units."

It added: "At the time of purchase, the discounted prices they paid per square foot exceeded the prices of similar properties in the same area.

"For Scotts 28, HPL quoted prices which SM and DPM accepted without bargaining. HPL did not name any list price or percentage discount."

Only later were the Lees informed, after the deputy premier inquired through his lawyers, that they had received a 5 percent discount from the list price, the statement said.

The Singapore Stock Exchange said in a statement issued Monday that Hotel Properties' tardiness in reporting sales of units to directors and related parties "could disadvantage the company and its shareholders."

It added, "Although HPL did not violate any SES rules, the Exchange would like to remind directors of listed companies that, in marketing property projects, they have a duty to obtain the best price so as to maximize the return to shareholders."

Merger Finally Weds Leading Shanghai Securities Houses

By Seth Faison
New York Times Service

SHANGHAI — In a final chapter to a riveting drama in China's securities markets, directors of Shanghai Shenyin Securities Co. signed an agreement Wednesday to acquire the rival Shanghai International Securities Co.

The takeover effectively creates China's largest securities company, albeit one with a dominant position atop a stunted industry. Chinese officials are trying to breathe life into the country's stock and bond markets, but the markets' stagnation has limited the ability of securities companies to grow.

If China's "emerging" markets actually do emerge, the new company, to be called Shenyin Wanguo Securities, is likely to control a large portion of the securities business. But the announcement also marked the end of Shanghai International, whose rapid rise and stunning fall seemed to embody the hope and disappointment involved in China's efforts to make Shanghai a world financial center.

An aggressive and innovative company that attracted a remarkable collection of talent, Shanghai International was run by a charismatic chief executive, Guan Jingsheng, often described by local executives as a visionary who would finance the nation's ambitious plans for modernization.

In a single day of wild trading in February 1995, Shanghai International fell from the top spot in China's securities industry to the bottom. Mr. Guan was later accused of personally ordering a bet on so many bond futures that his company lost $120 million, more than its registered capital.

It remains a mystery why Mr. Guan, who is believed to be under house arrest, has been neither formally charged nor released more than a year after the event. An executive at Shanghai International said it was because Mr. Guan had produced a notebook containing a list of high-ranking officials for whom he had done favors.

Shenyin, in contrast, is known for cautious, risk-averse trading. So while Wednesday's deal was officially portrayed as a friendly merger, executives at each company said it actually had been a government-ordered takeover.

Shanghai officials, themselves the principal shareholders of Shanghai International, apparently gave Shenyin no choice but to save its rival by assuming its debt and undertaking the tricky job of merging two companies with sharply differing cultures.

"People often described Shanghai International as an eager 20-year-old and Shenyin as a stable and healthy 40-year-old," said Kan Zhidong, Shenyin's chief executive, in a recent interview. "They weren't careful, while we tried to avoids mistakes and keep risks to a minimum."

Known as a cautious strategist in contrast to Mr. Guan's risk-taking flamboyance, Mr. Kan will head the combined company, whose total assets he estimated at about $1.2 billion.

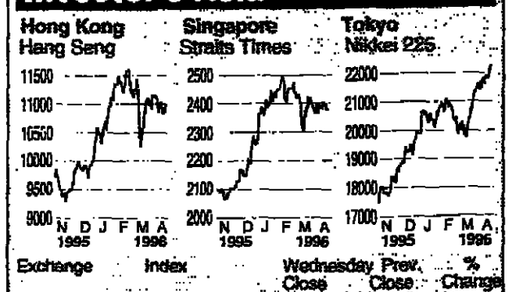
The takeover, rumored for months, was once scheduled to be announced in February but was delayed by officials at People's Bank of China, who were upset that they had not been properly consulted before the news appeared in the Hong Kong press.

Mr. Kan, discussing Shenyin's outlook, said he did not expect significant growth in 1996. The company will not pursue any of the stock listings in New York or Tokyo that Shanghai International executives used to trumpet as symbols of success.

Another executive at Shenyin said one consolation in the takeover was that Shenyin had taken over the real estate that Shanghai International had accumulated as it built an extensive trading operation in hundreds of Chinese cities and towns.

Just last weekend, the Shanghai Securities Exchange held its annual meeting, and leaders called for new listings and an expansion of its financial products. The exchange also cut fees and trading charges as a way to encourage investors to participate.

Investor's Asia



Exchange	Index	Wednesday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	10,989.70	10,889.10	+0.92
Singapore	Straits Times	2,381.18	2,378.73	+0.10
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,316.20	2,300.10	+0.70
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	22,282.05	22,119.88	+0.73
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	1,169.44	1,173.88	-0.38
Bangkok	SET	1,305.68	1,296.44	+0.71
Seoul	Composite Index	956.51	940.55	+1.71
Taipei	Stock Market Index	5,986.91	5,907.01	+1.35
Manila	PSE	2,969.33	2,996.60	-0.91
Jakarta	Composite Index	639.22	627.83	+0.39
Wellington	NZSE-40	2,141.66	2,135.06	+0.31
Bombay	Sensitive Index	3,869.87	3,728.76	+3.78

Source: Telekurs International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

• **Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Bank Ltd.** revised its profit estimate for the year ended March 31 for the two banks that recently combined to form the world's largest banking company; Bank of Tokyo now expects to post net profit of 80 billion yen ($748.7 million), up from 30 billion yen previously forecast, while Mitsubishi Bank cut back its estimate to 33 billion yen from 40 billion yen.

• **Sony Corp.** plans to close its consumer-audio goods plant in Gumma, north of Tokyo, to consolidate production at its Tsukuba factory.

• **Japan**'s crude-oil imports from Arab countries rose 2 percent last year, to 3.2 million barrels a day, the Bahrain-based Arab Banking Corp. said.

• **Brierley Investments Ltd.** of New Zealand raised its stake in the Australian building-materials and services concern **James Hardie Industries Ltd.** to 25.73 percent from 22.75 percent, raising speculation Hardie's ownership might change.

• **Accor Asia Pacific**, which is 34 percent-owned by Accor SA of France, will pay $17 million in stock and options to increase its stake in the Sofitel Metropole Hanoi hotel to 50 percent from 9.4 percent.

• **China**'s aviation agency said the country planned to buy 240 commercial aircraft over the next five years; sales to China market are dominated by Boeing Co., with a 70 percent share, trailed by Airbus Industrie and McDonnell Douglas Corp.

• **China**'s Liaoning Province plans to sell shares in a showpiece expressway to overseas investors as a way of attracting funds to ailing state enterprises.

• **Mongolia** aims to bring its annual inflation rate below 35 percent by year-end, from about 53 percent at the end of 1995.

• **Australia**'s consumer-price index for the year ended March 31 rose 3.7 percent, compared with forecasts of 4.1 percent; the annual rate of inflation was 3.3 percent, also lower than expected. *AFP, Reuters, Knight-Ridder, Bloomberg*

Stocks' Rebound Lifts Nomura's Profit

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Nomura Securities Co. said Wednesday its annual profit soared to more than 13 times that of the previous year, lifted by stringent cost-cutting and successful securities trading.

Japan's largest brokerage concern said current, or pretax, profit rose to 91.49 billion yen ($856.2 million) in the year ended March 31 from 6.8 billion yen. Revenue rose 29 percent, to 432.1 billion yen.

Nomura's deputy president, Atsushi Saito, attributed the result to the rebound in Japan's stock market and to sizable gains from bond dealing amid low interest rates. He also said that cost-control efforts had "made a large contribution."

Earnings per share climbed 1.56 yen, to 11.76 yen, and the company raised its dividend 1 yen a share, to 11 yen. Analysts said Nomura's improved earnings pointed to better times for Japan's other brokerage concerns, most of which had losses in 1994-95. In the latest year, share trading on the Tokyo Stock Exchange's first section averaged 398 million shares a day, compared with 309 million in the previous year. *(Bloomberg, AFX)*

Expansion Costs Slash San Miguel's Net

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MANILA — San Miguel Corp. said Wednesday that its net income fell a larger-than-expected 35 percent in the first quarter as expansion costs and raw-material prices soared.

The food and brewery concern said net fell to 725 million pesos ($27.7 million) from 1.11 billion pesos a year earlier, although revenue climbed to 18.9 billion pesos from 17.6 billion.

"The outlook for the balance of the year is optimistic but depends to a large degree on the expected recovery of the agriculture sector in the second semester," San Miguel said.

With the Philippines' economy expected to accelerate and inflation forecast to drop to single digits, San Miguel said its full-year profit should match the 5.38 billion pesos posted last year.

Interest expense, mainly on loans to finance the company's expansion at home and abroad, leaped 174 percent, to 607 million pesos, in the three-month period. *(Bloomberg, Reuters)*

INVEST: Foreign Investors Flock Anew to Eastern Europe

Continued from Page 15

that the Russian economy, after years of steep decline, will post a modest expansion of as much as 2 percent. "Both the region's risk and growth prospects have changed radically for the better," said Dan Lubash, a managing director at Merrill Lynch & Co.

While all that is undeniably true, it nonetheless masks an important reality: By almost all accounts, foreign buying has re-emerged as the crucial swing factor in Eastern European equity markets. That development comes in spite of the fact that foreigners account for well under half of trading activity in most of the region's markets. Only in Hungary does foreign trading account for the bulk of the activity — an estimated 70 percent.

"Local markets are still very shallow and are highly driven by international flows," said Matthew Olex-Szczytowski, managing director of the British investment bank J. Henry Schroder Wagg's Polish arm in Warsaw.

"A small shift in Western investors' preferences in favor of emerging markets still triggers major growth in prices in these markets."

Like the bubble that burst two years ago, pricked ultimately by rising U.S. interest rates and a sudden cooling in investor ardor for emerging markets in general, this year's boom has been triggered largely by foreign investors whose appetite for shares has quickly spread to local investors as well.

"Many foreign investors have gone into Eastern Europe fairly indiscriminately," said Charles Harman, a partner at MC Securities in London. Instead of targeting specific companies, many, he said, simply told their brokers: "Get me into Poland."

Roger Monson, chief equity strategist at Daiwa Europe Ltd., estimated that net portfolio-investment flows into Eastern Europe totaled as much as $2 billion in the first quarter of 1996 — the same amount that flowed in from abroad in all of 1995.

With buyers suddenly in surfeit and shares scarce, individual stocks have jumped as much as 10 percent in a day, if sometimes in very thin trading. Shares in Rolimpex SA, a Polish trading company, soared 170 percent in the first quarter as daily turnover in Polish stocks often tripled compared with the final quarter of last year.

Analysts point out that even in the largest and most actively traded markets, the value of trading remains small. As of the end of last year, ING Barings calculated that the value of shares listed in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Russia came to just under $43 billion — or more than $10 billion shy of the total market capitalization in the Philippines.

Put another way, Mr. Monson said, a $100 million "buy" order — small potatoes in markets in many parts of the world — equaled 20 days' total turnover in Hungarian stocks, one of the region's most liquid markets.

Spurred by the paucity of shares available, several fund managers report that the large blocks of stock favored by American pension funds can fetch prices 50 percent above the market price.

But with Western investors still concentrating most of their financial firepower on the five or 10 largest companies in just three or four East European markets, more experienced investors have lately set off in search of the next great plays, Mr. Jammohamed said that his best bets in recent months had come in the relatively untrammeled ground of the Slovakian market.

Others have cast their eyes further east, toward Ukraine, Russia and elsewhere. Last month, a $75 million share issue by Pliva D.D., a Croatian pharmaceuticals concern, was 20 times oversubscribed.

Clove-Trading Monopoly Is Defended by Suharto

Reuters

JAKARTA — President Suharto on Wednesday defended a government clove-trading monopoly run by one of his sons, saying it would be abolished when supply and demand for the spice were in balance.

"The concept of a clove-trading system is still needed because there is an oversupply; when supply and demand are balanced, the clove-trading system can be abolished," Mr. Suharto was quoted as saying by Subiyakto Tjakrawerdaya, the minister of cooperatives and small businesses.

The minister said the Clove Stock Management and Marketing Agency now has stocks of 280,000 metric tons and that clove production was more than 100,000 tons in 1995, while demand was only around 80,000 tons.

"The production must be reduced to balance supply and demand," he said. "I think production will be around 80,000 tons in 1996."

The Clove Stock Management and Marketing Agency is chaired by Mr. Suharto's youngest son, Hutomo Mandala Putra. It was granted a monopoly in early 1991.

The agency has been criticized by farmers for failing to support prices of cloves, which are used mostly in the production of locally consumed kretek cigarettes.

On Tuesday, a group student activists protested at the country's Parliament building to demand the abolition of the monopoly clove-trading system.

CITINVEST

16, Avenue Marie-Thérèse L-2132 Luxembourg

NOTICE TO ALL UNITHOLDERS

Effective May 12th, 1996, Article 4b) of the Management Regulations will be amended in order to allow the Funds to invest in transferable securities listed on official stock exchanges in North America, Europe, Asia or Oceania or traded on another regulated market in one of these countries which operates regularly and is recognised and open to the public.

This change will come into effect one month after publication of the present notice. During this period, unitholders may request redemption of their holdings free of charge.

A revised Sales Prospectus will reflect this change.

Citinvest S.A.

In this Friday's

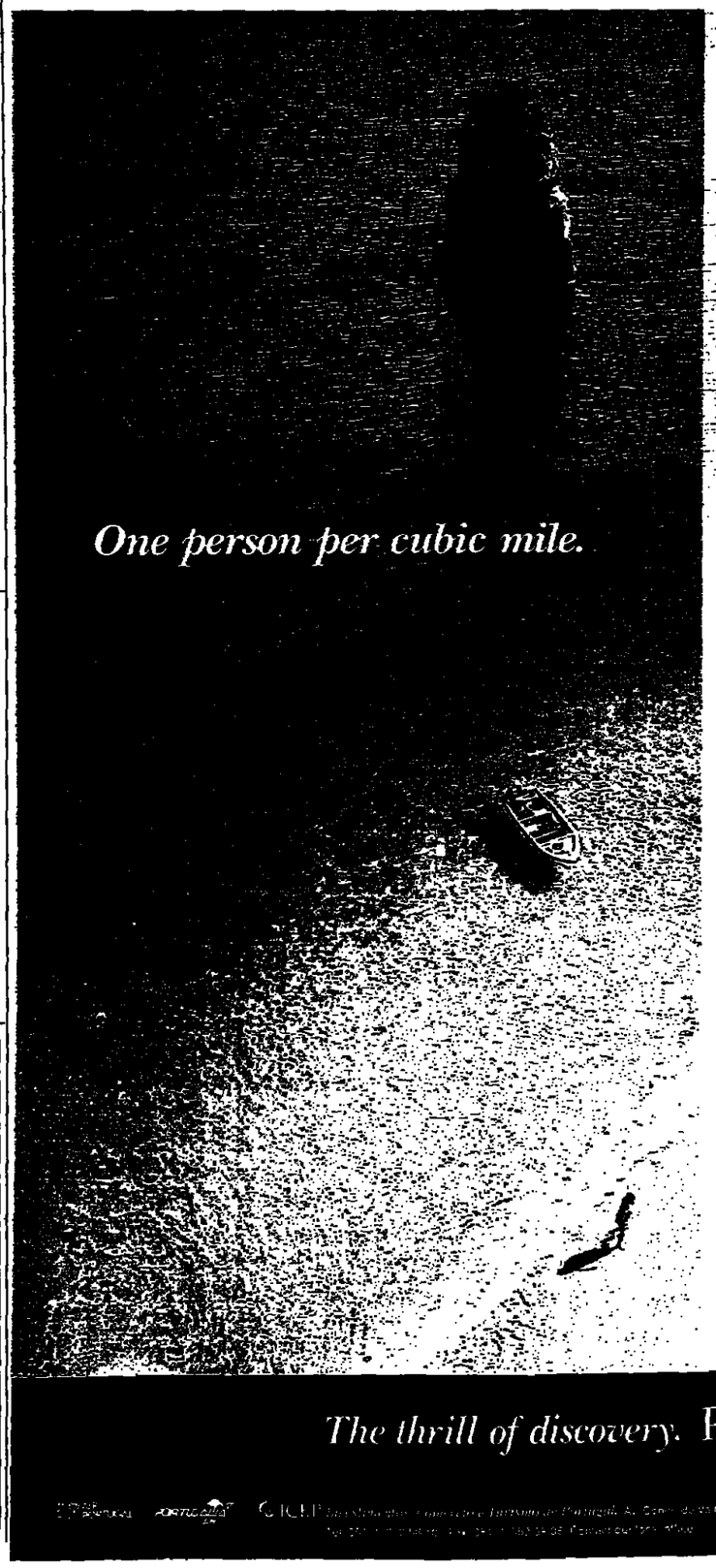
FEATURE

The Car Column

Rover 200

Herald Tribune INTERNATIONAL

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER



SPONSORED PAGE

In Brussels For Business

THE SMALL CAPITAL OF A small country a quarter of a century ago, Brussels is now at the center of the world stage, since EU policies and decisions profoundly affect the international financial and trading systems.

Because Brussels is now a region, along with Flanders and Wallonia, it has its own government, but in many ways it remains a collection of small villages. This lack of pretension has preserved at least some of the city's pleasant diversity, though huge areas of interesting old buildings have fallen to the wrecking ball and the bulldozer as real estate developers have sought to cash in on the European future.

Brussels was formerly one of the cheapest capitals in Europe, but its new status has changed things and prices have risen steeply. Still, the Bruxellois have retained their sense of humor (often aimed at themselves), their welcome for foreigners and much of their traditional quality of life. Brussels is a comfortable city, with uncounted pubs, bistros and neighborhood stores where you're recognized on your second visit and considered a regular on your third.

Calling Around

Brussels has good bus, subway and streetcar systems: fast, clean and relatively inexpensive. Don't be surprised when streetcars plunge into tunnels, because some double as subway trains.

Taxis are plentiful, but not cheap. The metered fare includes the tip.

At a Glance

Brussels has no clearly defined center. For most visitors, the handiest reference point is the Grand' Place, with its magnificent Hotel de Ville (city hall) and gilded medieval and Renaissance buildings. Around the Grand' Place is a maze of narrow streets, many of them now reserved for pedestrians, with a delightfully bewildering selection of shops and restaurants.

In this section of the city, too, is the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, a small, elegant opera house with performances so good that it draws audiences from as far away as Paris. Close by is the stock exchange, housed in a pillared, ornate building.

Neither does Brussels have a compact business center. Bank and corporate offices are strung out along the Avenue des Arts, the Avenue de la Loi, the Avenue Louise and the Rue Royale, which leads from the grand park fronting the Royal Palace. New corporate buildings have sprung up around the Gare du Nord, and increasingly, companies are moving to air-conditioned offices set in landscaped gardens in the suburbs. But nowhere is very far from anywhere else: "a bunch of suburbs in search of a city" Brussels may be, but it's no Los Angeles.

In a Word

French is spoken in Brussels itself, Dutch (Flemish) in most outlying communities. Street signs and store windows include both languages. Note that there are many Belgicismes – usages different from those of "proper" French. For example, the number 70, *soixante-dix* in France, is *septante* in Belgian French, while 90 is *nonante*. English is very widely spoken.

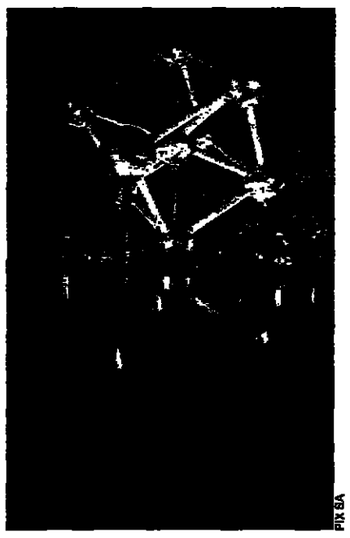
Wining & Dining

Brussels offers more choice for its size than any other European city, from haute cuisine and brasseries to notably good small and neighborhood restaurants serving everything from home cooking to food from exotic, faraway places. Belgian specialties abound: seafood, particularly mussels, which come in a dozen or more ways; *faisan à la Brabanconne* (pheasant with braised Brussels chicory), *lapin à la bière* (rabbit cooked in beer); and, in a short spring season, *jets d'houblon* (buds of hops in a rich creamy sauce with poached eggs: delicious). There are 300 Belgian beers, ranging from very light and pale to very heavy and dark. As for Belgian *pommes frites* (French fries, if you'll excuse the confusion), they're the best in the world.

Bar and restaurant checks and taxi fares include tips and VAT, but leave small change.

Aux Armes de Bruxelles, 13 Rue des Bouchers. Tel.: 511-2118. Businesspeople, politicos and a wide range of Brussels' most dedicated gourmands gather in this colorful brasserie in the old town. Try the *moules au vin blanc* and the thick Waterzooi soup with chicken.

Baguettes Impériales, 70 Avenue Jean Sobieski. Tel.: 479-6732. If you are out Heysel way for the trade shows or entertainment parks, then a visit to Madame Ma's establishment is a must. Vietnamese specialties include *pétale de boeuf, pigeonneau farci* – and hot mangos.



PIX BA

Bruneau, 73-75 Avenue Broustin, Ganshoren. Tel.: 427-6978. Away from the center, but worth the journey. Patron Jean-Pierre Bruneau is an inventive master of gastronomy, the service is friendly and informed, and the Louis XVI decor is luxurious. Eclectic wine list.

Castello Banfi, 12 Rue Bodenbroek. Tel.: 512-8794. Fine Italian food in an art deco setting. Try the *spaghetti au caviar*. In season, white and black truffles accompany the dishes.

Comme Chez Soi, 23 Place Rouppe. Tel.: 512-2921. Belle Epoque atmosphere with the kitchen in full view. Bistro food elevated to world status. Try the ham or salmon mousse, the *filet du sole au Riesling*, the wild duck in season and the pigeon stuffed with truffles.

Falstaff, 19 Rue Henri Maus. Tel.: 511-8789. Honest food, as the French say. A central location and atmosphere make this Art Nouveau brasserie so popular. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner till 5 A.M.

Forcado, 192 Chaussée de Charleroi. Tel.: 537-9220. A Portuguese restaurant whose specialty is grilled cod.

François, 2 Quai aux Briques. Tel.: 511-6089. After more than half a century, this fish restaurant is still doing a great job. Large choice of mussel sauces: champagne, curry, white wine and many others.

La Maison du Cygne, 9 Grand' Place. Tel.: 511-8244. Classic elegance, attention to detail, care of guests: a place in which to savor the atmosphere as well as the food and wines. The menu stresses seasonal foods, such as wild boar, venison, game birds and hare (*try the rable*, or saddle). Oysters so fresh that they wince at a drop of lemon juice.

L'Ecailler du Palais Royal, 18 Rue Bodenbroek. Tel.: 512-8751. Green-aproned waiters serve with suitable reverence fruits of the sea that may be the best in Brussels. Choice: lobster soufflé and grilled turbot with Sancerre butter.

Palais Royal, 103 Rue Royale. Tel.: 217-6290. Small, luxurious, with solid silver tableware. Sauces are light and complement rather than smother the dishes. Waiters seem to know what you want before you do. Game when in season; good fish and steaks year-round.

Porte des Indes, 455 Avenue Louise. Tel.: 647-8651. Cooking of the Raj in exotic surroundings. The city's best Indian table. Has become a favorite for business lunches.

Sea Grill-Le Divellec, 47 Rue Fossé-aux-Loups. Tel.: 219-2828. Jacques Le Divellec's fish restaurant in Paris is frequented by top-level politicians and lesser mortals. Mouth-watering *langoustines, rouget, bar*.

Taverne du Passage, 30 Galerie de la Reine. Tel.: 512-3731. The Taverne spends its customers' money on food rather than decor, so it doesn't look like much. A hangout for politicians and bankers who like its understated comfort and extensive wine cellar.

Villa Lorraine, 75 Avenue Vivier d'Oie. Tel.: 374-3163. One of the best kitchens in Belgium, set in gardens with trees, shrubs and abundant flowers. Definitely for the expense-account set and the independently wealthy.

Calling Around

Country code: 32. City code: 2. You don't use the city code within the metropolitan area. Phonebook instructions and the Yellow Pages' index are in English and German as well as French and Dutch.

- **Ambulance:** 649-1122.
- **Police:** 101.
- **Fire:** 100.
- **Standby doctor:** 478-1818.
- **Standby dentist:** 426-1026.
- **Flight information:** 722-3111.
- **Taxis:** 2422-2222.
- **Tourist office:** 513-7484.
- **U.S. Embassy:** 513-3830.

Excerpted from the "International Herald Tribune Guide to Europe" (third edition, NTC Publishing) by Alan Tillier and Roger Beardwood.

"BUSINESS TRAVEL WITH ITT SHERATON"
was produced in its entirety by the Advertising Department of the International Herald Tribune.
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: *Bill Mahder.*

Next City

FRANKFURT

39 Steps to Airport Relaxation With ITT Sheraton

TAKE 39 STEPS FROM THE terminal at Brussels National Airport and kiss your flight fatigue away. That short walk across the street will lead you to the Sheraton Brussels Airport Hotel.

There you can relax in one of the 290 luxuriously appointed rooms or in a suite with a view on an enormous glass-walled atrium. All of the suites have CD players, fax machines and safe-deposit boxes.

If there's work to be done, no need to worry: The hotel's business center has everything you might need in terms of equipment and assistance. Facilities are also available for meetings, conferences and banquets.

The fitness center is an ideal restorative for muscles tightened up by sitting on a plane during long flights, and, if you stay for the weekend, get ready for Europe's best Sunday brunch with live jazz.

One of the greatest advantages of staying at one of ITT Sheraton's six airport hotels in Europe is its new Airport Hotels Program. This package of services has been carefully thought out to sooth away the stress, fatigue and jet lag often experienced by international travelers.

The program includes many innovative ideas. The Day Break Service allows guests who are between flights to take a room for a stay of a few hours. The Transit Survival Kit provides them with a toothbrush, T-shirt, face cream, razor, deodorant, mouthwash, slippers, comb and brush, and other useful items.

For those who like to look their best while traveling light, the laundry service is a godsend. Same Day Service returns your garment freshly cleaned and pressed by the evening, Express Service within four hours, and Overnight Express Service gets last night's outfit back to you early the next morning for a fresh start.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the package for weary jet-setters is the Body Clock Cuisine. A menu of 14 delicious anti-jet lag dishes has been designed by ITT Sheraton executive chefs in conjunction with a leading nutritionist. These dishes will help you to adjust to new time zones and fight fatigue. If it's the middle of the night for your inner body clock, but everybody in Europe is eating breakfast, you can choose the type of food you are in the mood for.

Body Clock Cuisine takes into account the loss of fluids during flight and replaces them with flavored mineral waters that do not contain sugar. The dishes have a low-salt and no-sodium content, and care has been taken to ensure that they are easily digestible and low in fat, yet high in fiber and proteins.

Eggs, white fish and yogurt are key ingredients. Fresh fruits and herbs are used to stimulate the appetite, and glucose-rich foods like honey help raise your energy level.

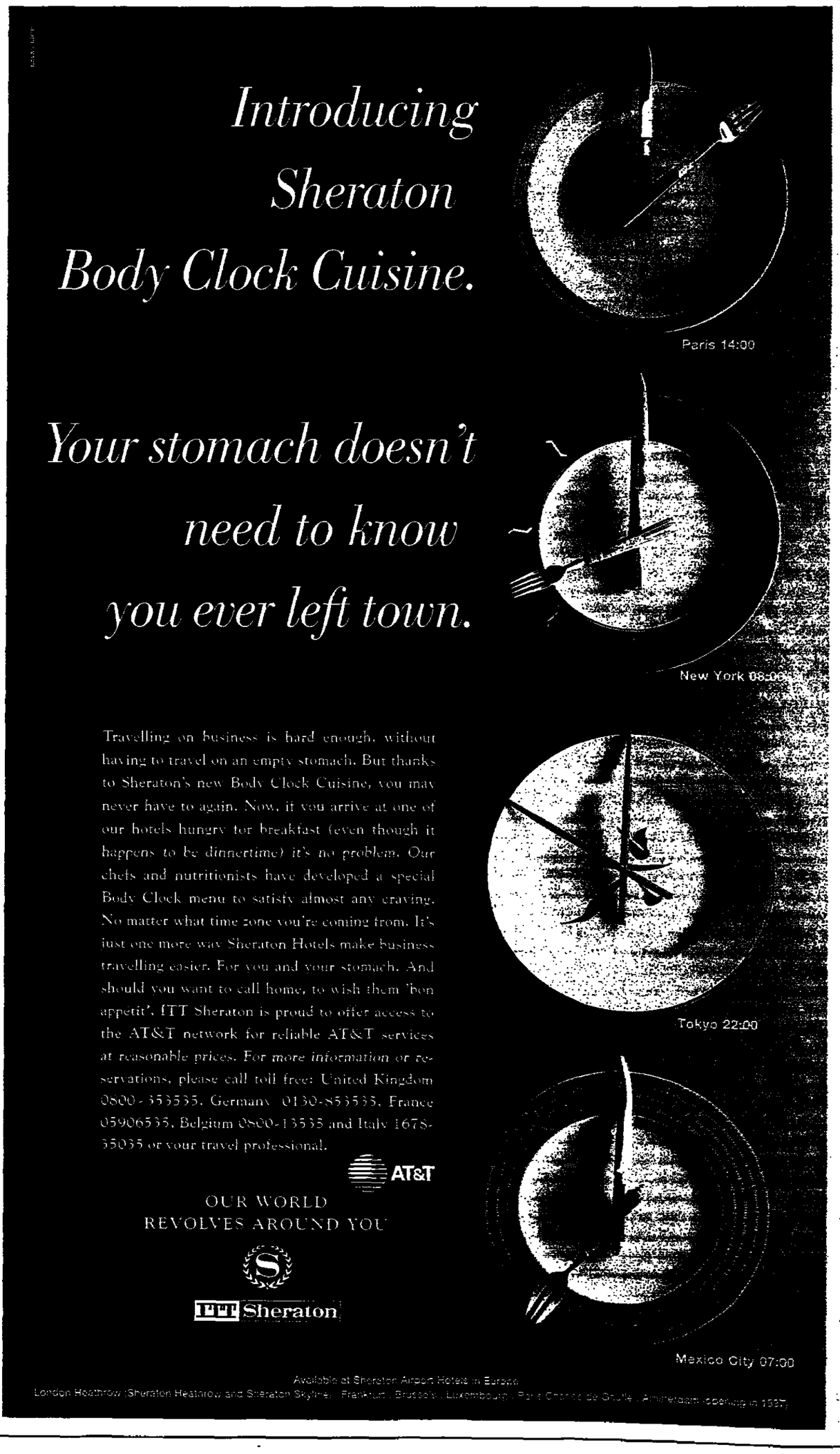
For location, service and innovative cuisine, Sheraton Airport Hotels work for you.

Sheraton Brussels Airport Hotel: Tel.: (32-2) 725-1000. Fax: (32-2) 725-1155.

ITT SHERATON HOTELS are proud to offer access to AT&T for reliable services at competitive prices. With AT&T you can call back to the United States and over 210 other countries quickly and easily. Just dial the AT&T Access Number for the country you are calling from, and you will be connected to an English-speaking AT&T Operator or voice prompt within seconds. You can find a list of AT&T Access Numbers daily on the back page of the International Herald Tribune.

What's more, you'll have access to a variety of services like voice messaging, teleconferencing and on-line language interpreters. For ease and convenience, you can have your calls billed to any AT&T Card or to most U.S. local telephone cards, or you can call collect. Fast, easy calling worldwide. *That's Your True Choice.℠ AT&T.*

AT&T



هذا من الأهرام

NASDAQ

Wednesday's 4 p.m.

The 1,000 most-traded National Market securities in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

NYSE

Wednesday's 4 p.m. Close

(Continued)

هكذا من الاصل

WORLD ROUNDUP

Mark Baker/Reuters
Kieren Perkins grimacing after missing an Olympic spot.

Perkins Fails Trial

SWIMMING The world record holder Kieren Perkins failed to qualify for the 400-meter freestyle at the Atlanta Olympics, finishing third Wednesday at the Australian trials. Perkins, who set the world mark of three minutes 43.80 seconds in 1994, finished at 3:52.56. *(Reuters)*

Muster Cruises to Victory

TENNIS Thomas Muster enjoyed an easy start to the defense of his Monte Carlo title Wednesday, cruising past Tomas Carbonell, 7-5, 6-4, in just 80 minutes. *(Reuters)*

• Pete Sampras, who ended 1995 as the world No. 1 and won Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, has been voted player of the year for a third year running. *(Reuters)*

Martigues Holds Leaders

SOCCER Paris Saint-Germain missed a chance to go to the top of the French league, tying 0-0 Tuesday with Martigues, the club at the bottom of the standings. *(Reuters)*

Deaf Fans Sue NBA

BASKETBALL Deaf basketball fans filed a class-action lawsuit Tuesday against the NBA and the San Antonio Spurs, seeking video captioning on TV monitors in all the league's arenas. The suit claims the NBA, the Spurs and the Alamodome do not comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act. *(AP)*

Bikinis at the Ballpark

BASEBALL The Arizona Diamondbacks plan to put a swimming pool just beyond the outfield wall in deep right field in their planned stadium, Bank One Ballpark. The plan includes a pool with a swim-up bar, a heated spa, five waterfalls, a catered barbecue area, a tanning deck and a fountain that will shoot water 25 feet in the air when a Diamondbacks' player knocks a home run into the drink. It will be leased to businesses and groups. *(AP)*

LeClair Lights Way To Flyers' Victory

The Associated Press

John LeClair returned from injury and lifted the Philadelphia Flyers to victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning. After scoring a team-leading 51 goals during the regular season, LeClair sprained his ankle in the Flyers' 2-1 overtime loss Tuesday to the Lightning in the second game of the playoff series and missed their 5-4 loss on Sunday.

NHL PLAYOFFS

LeClair scored from nearly identical spots on the ice in the first and third periods Tuesday. Joel Otto and Dale Hawerchuk also scored for the Flyers, who evened the best-of-7 series at two games apiece.

The game drew a league record crowd of 28,183 to the ThunderDome.

Rangers 4, Canadiens 3 In Montreal, Adam Graves scored twice in a three-goal second period as New York evened its series with the Canadiens at 2-2.

Graves, who has five goals in the series, scored one on the power play and one at even strength while Shane Churla also scored as the Rangers built a 4-1 lead in the second period.

The Canadiens rallied in the third with goals from Saku Koivu and Pierre Turgeon but fell short after some tense moments around the New York net.

Blues 5, Maple Leafs 1 In St. Louis, Shayne Corson and Brett Hull scored shorthanded goals as the Blues beat Toronto. The Blues have four shorthanded goals in the series, which they lead, 3-1. Corson and Brian Noonan each scored two goals and Wayne Gretzky had three assists as the Blues won consecutive games for the first time since March 3-5.

Red Wings 6, Jets 1 In Winnipeg, Sergei Fedorov had four assists and Detroit scored three power-play goals in the second period to go 3-1 in its series with Winnipeg. Unless the Jets win Game 5 Friday in Detroit, Tuesday night's was their last game in Winnipeg Arena. The franchise is moving to Phoenix.

Blackhawks 2, Flames 1 In Calgary, Joe Murphy scored at 10:02 of the third overtime as Chicago beat the Flames and became the first team to advance to the second round of the playoffs. The Flames have not won a playoff series since winning the Stanley Cup in 1989.

The game was the longest in Flames' history and the longest in the National Hockey League since Buffalo beat New Jersey, 1-0, at 5:43 of the fourth overtime on April 27, 1994. The Blackhawks sent the game into overtime on Jeremy Roenick's goal with nine seconds left in regulation. The Flames had taken a 1-0 lead at 5:53 of the second period on a goal by Jarome Iginla.

■ **Germany Upsets Canada, 5-1**

Germany upset Canada 5-1 Wednesday in the World Championships in Vienna. Canada, 20-time winners of the championship, is 1-1-1 after three games.

In Pool B, Sweden beat France 2-1 when Per Gustafsson scored the winner at 8:10 of the second period.

Germany was coached by Canadian-born George Kingston, a former NHL and Canada national coach. Its first goal, after 29 seconds, was scored by Canadian-born Mark Mackay.

Germany went 2-0 ahead 40 seconds into the second period with a goal by Jan Benda. Benoit Doucet made it 3-0. The Canadians regrouped and scored on a power-play. But the tight-checking Germans scored the only two goals of the third period. *(AP)*

• A new European League and a Super Cup, which will include a team from the National Hockey League, were unveiled Wednesday by the International Ice Hockey Federation. The league, starting in September, will feature 20 teams from 12 countries. The champions, with the winners of the European Cup and an NHL team, will play in the Super Cup, in September 1997. *(Reuters)*

Joe Raymond/The Associated Press
Winnipeg's Darrin Shannon, 34, tangling with the whole Detroit Red Wings team after a failed attempt to score.

English Soccer Finds That It Pays to Be a Museum Piece

By Martin Baker
International Herald Tribune

PRESTON, England — English football is not dead. On the contrary, it is alive and well — even if it happens to be living in a museum.

No, this is not a tactic that England's coach, Terry Venables, will be deploying in the soccer championship of European nations this summer. Despite what critics of the supposedly antiquated English game might say, the team will not have a dinosaur playing center forward.

What there will be, if the curators and the increasingly large band of supporters of English soccer have their way, is a series of museums and exhibits telling the story of a game that celebrated its professional centennial almost 10 years ago.

"We couldn't really believe that a museum — a Hall of Fame, if you like — hadn't been done before," said Bryan Gray, chairman of Preston North End Football Club, the first champions of the English league in 1888 and first winners of the league and Football Association Cup double that Manchester United covets this year.

The Preston club, in the northwest of England, has instituted an ambitious plan in setting up The Football Museum. The objective is to claim some £3 million ($4.5 million) from the U.K. government for a registered charity that has both educational and research functions in addition to the more obvious role of a museum — that of offering the public something to look at.

The museum is housed within the brand-new £4 million stand at Preston's Deepdale stadium, and will be setting up its "Gallery of Greats" of the English game. It has obtained the largest permanent exhibit of soccer memorabilia and photographs from FIFA, the governing body of world soccer.

But the Football Museum is not alone. Similar projects are springing up all over England, as attendances at league matches surge, and the marketing of the game enters the modern era. After years of neglect, English soccer suddenly has several aspirants to be the equivalent of baseball's Cooperstown.

The prime reason for this, according to Gary, is commercial.

"Football has never had a long-term strategy; it has been run on passion and sentiment, not as a business, which is what we are going to do here — and make no apologies for it. Football has always been run for the moment but now is the time to shoulder responsibility for our heritage."

Rogan Taylor, director of the football research unit at Liverpool University, agrees that the sudden surge in soccer heritage projects is money-oriented — what he terms the "bourgeoisification of football." But Taylor also argues that the moment for having a genuine, national Hall of Fame-style heritage museum may have passed.

"The pace of change within English football is incredible. In a matter of five years we have moved from a situation where it was remarkable that there was no national museum, to the situation where now we may never have one. I suspect there'll never be a single, definitive collection of English football memorabilia."

Again, an important reason is money. Attendances at English soccer matches reached a peak of 48 million in 1948. That figure had halved by 1962 and fallen to just 16.5 million in 1985. This season's figure is expected to be more than 30 million.

English soccer clubs only learned about merchandising relatively recently, and now it seems that no revenue source — certainly not one as potentially lucrative as a "heritage center" — is to be overlooked. Football heritage exhibits are being planned in cities such as Sheffield, Liverpool and Carlisle.

"There's a powerful tradition of locality, or identifying a team with where it's sited," said Taylor. "This focus on the local means that many people don't want a global museum, they want a shrine to Liverpool or Manchester City."

Other reasons for the sudden plurality of soccer archives are an upsurge in academic study of the game and the modernization of museums in Britain, said Jane Dalton, curator of the Museum of Football at Carlisle, on England's border with Scotland.

"Museums have become part of popular culture. Lots of people who would never have gone into a museum a few years ago will do so now. Especially if football is being exhibited," Dalton said. "It's a good way of getting people's interest when we're looking to attract them for educational purposes."

The Carlisle museum project is some three years from completion, but visitors will be able to go and see a traveling exhibition on the European nations' championship. The first leg of the tour will be in Carlisle, immediately after the championship is over. It won't just be pure football. There will be a look at the history of England versus Scotland clashes, and a cultural study of whether Newcastle United fans are likely to follow the French team because of Newcastle's David Ginola — even though he probably won't be playing for France in the tournament.

There is one final oddity in the stop-start, famine-plenty business of preserving English soccer heritage: It is somehow not genteel to admit that museums might be competing with one another. Thus the Football Museum (Preston) and the nearby Museum of Football (Carlisle) insist that they are not rivals. Funny game, football curating.

Stuart Goldenberg/IHT

CURRENCY AND CAPITAL MARKET SERVICES

IFEXCO S.A.
International Foreign Exchange Corporation
THE RELIABLE PARTNER
Discounted commissions - 3 daily newsletters
24 hour trading desk - Reuters page IFEX
SEE US ON NBC TEXT PAGES 355 & 356
86 bis route de Frontenex - 1208 Geneva - Switzerland
Tel: (41) 22 849 7411 - Fax: (41) 22 700 1913

FOREX CAPITAL
MEMBER FIBAH
COMPLIMENTARY REPORT
SIMPLE, EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS FOR MAKING MONEY IN TODAY'S CURRENCY MARKETS.
THIS COMPREHENSIVE FREE-REPORT, FULLY DISCLOSES PROVEN TRADING TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING AN 18 YEAR PERFORMANCE RECORD WITH ALL SUPPORTING HISTORICAL PRICE DATA FOR COMPLETE PERFORMANCE VERIFICATION.
PREPARE FOR TOMORROW'S MAJOR MARKET MOVES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE TODAY

Switzerland	1557233	U.K.	0800966632
Germany	0130829666	France	05902246
Netherlands	060220657	Belgium	080015880
Denmark	80016132	Ireland	1800559294
Greece	00800119213013	Italy	167875928
Sweden	020793158	Spain	900971408
Norway	800124416	Finland	08001-10064
Turkey	1950900279	Japan	0031126609
Singapore	8001202501	Hong Kong	8007209
Australia	1800125944	N. Zealand	0800441880
S. Africa	0800996337	Israel	1771503783
Cyprus	08098863	Thailand	001800120662059
Korea	0078148002633	Brazil	1955502578
Bermuda	1959910706	Mexico	958008784178

U.S. Toll Voice: 1-714-576-8020 U.S. Toll Fax: 1-714-576-5025

24 HOUR FOREIGN EXCHANGE
IG INDEX FOREIGN EXCHANGE
• Keen spreads; no commission
• Minimum transaction $100,000
• Competitive margin rates
IG Index plc, 1 Warwick Row, London SW1E 5ER, Great Britain
Tel: -44-171-896-0022 Fax: -44-171-896-0010

VentureTech Inc. (NASDAQ-OTC:VTEH)
A High Technology Investment & Finance Company
Launches World's First Interactive Virtual Casino
Internet Gaming via Monte Carlo, Monaco & Fully Secure Internet Banking Centres
Access VentureTech on the Internet @ www.vteh.com
Play Casino Games for Amusement @ vcw.com
For Investment Information on this exciting U.S. Public Company:
First Capital Securities in Geneva, Switzerland
Tele: (41)-22-7412555 (24 Hrs.) or Fax: (41)-22-7412606

REHDER & PARTNER AG
YOUR SWISS BROKERAGE HOUSE FOR 1996
FUTURES, OPTIONS AND FOREX
ON VOLUMES GREATER THAN 350 LOTS R/T US$ 16.00 ROUNDTURN
ON VOLUMES GREATER THAN 1 000 LOTS R/T US$ 14.00 ROUNDTURN
INCLUDING ALL FEES
CALL 0041 41 740 00 22 OR FAX 0041 41 740 00 29
SENNWEIDSTRASSE 45, 6312 STEINHAUSEN-ZUG

SURGE TRADING S.A.
surge trading
FOREX & FUTURES BROKERS
24 HOUR DESK
21-23 Rue du Clos, CH-1211 GENEVA 6
Tel.: (41) 22-700 2051 Fax: (41) 22-700 2061
SEE US ON CNN - TEXT PAGE 695
SEE US ON INTERNET - http://www.surgetrd.com

For further details on how to place your listing contact: WILL NICHOLSON in London
Tel.: (44) 171 836 48 02 – Fax: (44) 171 240 2254
Herald International Tribune
THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

Major League Standings

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	11	8	.579	—
New York	9	8	.529	1
Toronto	9	10	.474	2
Detroit	8	13	.381	4
Boston	4	16	.200	7½
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Cleveland	12	6	.667	—
Milwaukee	10	8	.555	2
Chicago	10	9	.526	2½
Minnesota	8	10	.444	4
Kansas City	6	14	.300	7
WEST DIVISION				
Texas	13	6	.684	—
Seattle	13	7	.650	½
California	11	8	.579	2
Oakland	9	10	.474	4

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION	W	L	Pct.	GB
Montreal	13	7	.650	—
Atlanta	11	10	.524	2½
Philadelphia	9	10	.474	3½
New York	7	11	.389	5
Florida	8	13	.381	5½
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Houston	11	9	.550	—
St. Louis	11	10	.524	½
Chicago	10	10	.500	1
Cincinnati	9	11	.450	2
Pittsburgh	9	11	.450	2
WEST DIVISION				
San Diego	13	7	.650	—
Colorado	10	9	.526	2½
San Francisco	10	10	.500	3
Los Angeles	9	12	.429	4½

TUESDAY'S LINE SCORES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Boston 310 011 000—6 7 0
Minnesota 300 200 30x—6 14 2
Moyer, M. Maddux (4), Hudson (7), Pennington (7) and Stanley; Hawkins, Hansell (2), Nouty (6), Guardado (8), Stevens (9) and Durant, G. Myers (5). W—Nouty, 1-0. L—Hudson, 0-1. Sv—Stevens (5). HRs—Boston, M. Vaughn (4). O'Leary (2), Selby (2). Minnesota, Knoblauch (2), Cordova (2), D'Hollins (2), Coomer (1).
Milwaukee 100 000 041—6 8 0
Oakland 500 400 00x—9 10 1
Sparks, Kiefer (8) and Lewis, Mathews (8); Wojciechowski, Small (7), Groom (8), Briscoe (8), Mohler (9) and Steinbach. W—Wojciechowski, 1-0. L—Sparks, 1-3. Sv—Mohler (2). HRs—Oakland, Giambi (1), Brosius 2 (6).
Chicago 200 400 000—6 11 1
Texas 000 000 000—5 9 0
Baldwin, Magnante (6), McCaskill (7), R. Hernandez (9) and Kreuter; Karkovice (9); K.Hill, Vosberg (6) and I. Rodriguez. W—Baldwin, 1-0. L—K. Hill, 2-2. Sv—R. Hernandez (5). HR—Chicago, Baines (5).
New York 000 020 000—2 7 1
Kansas City 000 201 20x—5 7 0
Key, Wickman (7) and Girardi; Gubicza, Montgomery (8). W—Gubicza, 2-3. L—Key, 1-3. Sv—Montgomery (4). HRs—New York, Be.Williams (3). Kansas City, Vitiello (1).
Baltimore 000 310 040—8 13 0
Cleveland 000 420 30x—9 10 2
Mussina, R. McDowell (7), R. Myers (8) and Holles; Lopez, Ogea (5), Assenmacher (8), Tavarez (8), Mesa (9) and S. Alomar. W—Ogea, 2-0. L—Mussina, 3-2. Sv—Mesa (6). HRs—Baltimore, Bonilla (2). Cleveland, Belle (7), M. Ramirez (5).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Pittsburgh 100 100 000—2 9 2
Philadelphia 010 013 10x—6 10 0
Wagner, Hancock (6), Cordova (7) and Kendall; Mk.Williams, Springer (6), L. Ryan (7) and Santiago. W—Wagner, 3-1. L—Springer, 1-2. Sv—K. Ryan (1). HRs—Pittsburgh, King (6). Philadelphia, Incaviglia (1).
San Diego 024 000 010—7 11 1
Florida 000 011 000—2 5 0
Bergman, Florie (8) and B. Johnson; Hammond, Mantei (3), Adamson (6), Y. Perez (9) and Nokel. W—Bergman, 2-1. L—Hammond, 1-3.
Colorado 100 010 110—4 11 1
Chicago 001 000 020—3 5 2
Reed, M. Munoz (6), Hebyan (6), S. Reed (7) B.Ruffin (8), Holmes (8), Leskanic (9) and Je.Reed; F.Castillo, D. Jones (8), B. Patterson (8), M. Perez (9) and Servais. W—Reed, 1-1. L—F. Castillo, 0-2. Sv—Leskanic (6).
Los Angeles 000 000 020—3 6 0
Atlanta 200 000 00x—3 4 0
Park, Guthrie (5), Osuna (7), Radinsky (8), Td.Worrell (9) and Piazza; Glavine, McMichael (8), Ciontz (8), Wade (9) and J. Lopez. W—Osuna, 2-2. L—Ciontz, 0-2. Sv—Td. Worrell (4). HR—Los Angeles, Piazza (2).
Houston 007 010 000—8 11 1
San Francisco 102 001 000—4 8 0
Kile, Small (7), To.Jones (9) and Wilkins; VanLandingham, Dewey (7), Juden (9) and Jeasen. W—Kile, 2-2. L—VanLandingham, 0-4. HRs—Houston, Wilkins (4). San Francisco, Carreon (6).
St. Louis 017 001 020—11 14 0
Montreal 213 014 001—12 14 2
Stottlemyre, Fossas (4), Bailey (5), Honeycutt (6), Parrett (6), Mathews (8) and Sheaffer, Pagnozzi (6); Rueter, Manuel (4), Dyer (4), D. Veres (6), Daal (7), Scott (8) and D. Fletcher. W—Scott, 1-0. L—Mathews, 1-1. HRs—Montreal, H.Rodriguez (8), D.Fletcher (3), Rivette (2), Alou (3).
Cincinnati 000 203 010 0—6 7 0
New York 100 300 200 2—8 13 2
(10 innings)
Jarvis, J. Ruffin (6), Moore (8), Shaw (10) and J. Oliver; B.Jones, MacDonald (6); DiPoto (6); Minor (8); D.Henry (10) and Hundley. W—D. Henry, 1-0. L—Shaw, 2-2. HRs—Cincinnati, Morris (3). New York, Hundley (3). C.Jones (1).

Japanese Leagues

CENTRAL LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pct	GB
Yokohama	12	4	0	.750	—
Chunichi	9	7	0	.562	3
Hiroshima	8	8	0	.500	4
Yakult	7	9	0	.438	5
Hanshin	6	9	0	.400	5½
Yomiuri	5	9	0	.357	6

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Chunichi 2, Yakult 0
Yomiuri 5, Hiroshima 3
Yokohama 6, Hanshin 2

PACIFIC LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pct	GB
Kintetsu	12	5	0	.706	—
Nippon Ham	11	7	0	.611	1½
Orix	11	9	0	.550	2½
Lotte	10	10	0	.500	3½
Daiei	7	12	0	.368	6
Seibu	6	14	0	.300	7½

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Orix 7, Seibu 4
Lotte 2, Daiei 1
Kintetsu 6, Nippon Ham 2

HOCKEY

NHL Playoffs

FIRST ROUND
(BEST-OF-7)
TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Philadelphia 2 1 1—4
Tampa Bay 0 1 0—1
(Series tied 2-2.)
First Period: P-LeClair 2 (Lindros, Desjardins) (pp). 2, P-Otto 3 (Podein, Renberg). Second Period: T-Kilrea 2 (pp). 4, P-, Hawerchuk 3 (Renberg). Third Period: P-LeClair 3 (pp). Shots on goal: P- 11-15-7—33. T- 6-11-5—22. Goalies: P-Hnidsi. T-Reese.

N.Y. Rangers 1 3 0—4
Montreal 1 0 2—3
(Series tied 2-2.)
First Period: NY-Messier 1 (Kovalev, Driver) (pp). 2, M-Wilkie 1 (Odelein, Recchi). Second Period: NY-Churla 1 (Kovalev, Lowe). 4, NY-Graves 4 (Verbeek, Driver) (pp). 5, NY-Graves 5 (Driver, Messier). Third Period: M-Kaivu 2 (Stevenson, Popovic). 7, M-Turgeon 1 (Petrov, Fitzpatrick). Shots on goal: NY- 6-9-4—19. M- 13-10-8—31. Goalies: NY- Richter. M-Thibeault.

Toronto 0 0 1—1
St. Louis 1 2 2—5
(St. Louis leads series 3-1.)
First Period: S.L.-Corson 3 (Pronger, Gretzky) (sh). Second Period: S.L.-Corson 4 (Hull, Gretzky). 3, S.L.-Hull 3, (sh). Third Period: S.L.-Noonan 2 (Matteau, Gretzky). 5, S.L.-Noonan 3 (Matteau, Corey). 6, T-Mutter 3 (Gartner, Macoun). Shots on goal: T- 7-18-17—42. S.L.- 10-11-13—34. Goalies: T-Potvin, Beaupre. S.L.-Casey.

Detroit 1 3 2—6
Winnipeg 0 1 0—1
(Detroit leads series 3-1.)
First Period: D-Konstantinov 1 (Fedorov, Larionov). Second Period: W-Lowry 1 (Tkachuk, Olczyk). 3, D-Larionov 3 (Coffey, Yzerman) (pp). 4, D-, Kozlov 1 (Fedorov, Lidstrom) (pp). 5, D-Ciccarelli 1 (Fedorov, Lidstrom) (pp). Third Period: D-Johnson 2 (Maltby, Lidstrom). 7, D-Yzerman 1 (Fedorov, Coffey) (pp). Shots on goal: D-13-17-11—35. W- 5-10-5—20. Goalies: D-Ver-non. W-Khabibulin.

Chicago 0 0 1 0 0 1—2
Calgary 0 1 0 0 0 0—1
(Chicago wins series 4-0.)
First Period: None. Second Period: CA-Iginla 1 (Tilov). Third Period: CH-Roenick 2 (Murphy, Suter). First Overtime: None. Second Overtime: None. Third Overtime: 3, CH-Murphy 4 (Graves). Shots on goal: C- 5-10-10-11-5-6—47. C- 12-8-10-10-10-6—56. Goalies: C-Belfour. C-Tabaracci.

World Championships

IN VIENNA
TUESDAY'S RESULTS

United States 4, Germany 2
Italy 4, Norway 0
Canada 4, Austria 0
Czech Republic 4, Finland 2
WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Germany 5, Canada 1
Sweden 2, France 1

SOCCER

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION
Paris-St. Germain 6, Martigues 0
STANDINGS: Auxerre 65 points, Paris-SG 64, Metz 62, Monaco 61, Lens 59, Montpellier 57, Rennes 53, Guingamp 52, Strasbourg 50, Nantes 50, Lyon 44, Bastia 44, Le Havre 42, Cannes 40, Bordeaux 37, Nice 36, Saint-Etienne 33, Lille 33, Guengnon 31, Martigues 26.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES
Chile 3, Australia 0
Czech Republic 2, Ireland 0
Bosnia 0, Albania 0
Romania 5, Georgia 0
Austria 2, Hungary 0
Slovakia 0, Bulgaria 0
Iceland 3, Estonia 0

RUGBY

RUGBY UNION SUPER 12
TUESDAY'S RESULT
Transvaal 55, Canterbury 23

CRICKET

FIRST TEST
WEST INDIES VS. NEW ZEALAND, 4TH DAY
TUESDAY, IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS
New Zealand 1st innings: 195
West Indies 1st innings: 472
New Zealand 2d innings: 305
West Indies 2d innings: 29-0
Result: West Indies won by 10 wickets.

TRANSITIONS

BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE
BALTIMORE—Traded OF Keith Eaddy of High Desert, CL, to San Diego for C Melvin Rosario of Rancho Cucamonga, CL.
CALIFORNIA—Activated RHP Lee Smith from disabled list. Designated RHP Todd Fretwirth for assignment.
DETROIT—Promoted RHP Kellan Jacobson from Fayetteville, SAL, to Lakeland, FSL. Assigned P David Melendez to Fayetteville for extended spring training.
MINNESOTA—Placed RHP Rick Aguilera on 15-day disabled list. Called up P Jose Parra from Salt Lake City, PCL.
NATIONAL LEAGUE
PITTSBURGH—Designated RHP John Ericks for reassignment. Recalled RHP John Hope from Calgary, PCL.

BASKETBALL
NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
NBA—Suspended Seattle forward Shawn Kemp and Denver forward Tom Hammonds one game and fined them $7,500 apiece for fighting. Kemp's suspension will be served Friday and Hammonds' next season.

FOOTBALL
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
ARIZONA—Signed TE Pat Carter to 1-year contract. Signed WR Fred Beach, WR Kirvin Jordan, WR Ervin Whitehead, WR Al Smith, OL Joe Carollo, OL Tom Ciaro, OL Ryan Leahy, RB Clarence Matthews, RB David Dean, RB Cedric Smith, DT Matt Bonhaus, DT Allen Jones, K Alle Larsen, QB Mark Butterfield, S Tommy Bennett, CB Art Celestine, LB Jamaal McKinnon, P Scott Player and TE Willie Wright.
ATLANTA—Agreed to terms with DT Trent Zaskowicz, DT Mike Schlegel, LB Scott Fields, CB Robert Lee, CB Tim Denton, G James Christensen, G Vel Mitchell, and T Robert Coach.
CAROLINA—Agreed to terms with OL Robert Darden, LB Justin Diggs, OL William Knight, QB Jim Kubiak, P Sean Terry, TE Syll Tucker, LB John Walters, DB Johnnie Williams, C Paul Grasley, and WR Terry Obee.

SPORTS

McGwire Steps Up And the A's Win

The Associated Press

In his first appearance of the season, Mark McGwire reached base three times in a 9-6 Oakland victory over the visiting Milwaukee Brewers. McGwire had been sidelined for six weeks because of torn tissue in his right foot.

McGwire was 0-for-1 officially Tuesday, but walked twice, was hit by a pitch and

AL Roundup

scored a run. He left in the seventh for a pinch runner.

Twins 8, Red Sox 6 Dave Hollins, let go by Boston after last season, hit a two-run homer in the seventh for Minnesota at the Metrodome.

Chuck Knoblauch led off the game for the Twins with a home run, and Marty Cordova and Ron Coomer connected later.

Minnesota got four homers in a game for the first time since Aug. 6, 1994.

Mo Vaughn, Bill Selby and Troy O'Leary homered for the Red Sox.

White Sox 6, Rangers 5 James Baldwin, promoted from the minors before the game, won for the first time in the majors.

The White Sox gave Baldwin an early 6-0 lead, then flinched after his error set up a five-run fifth. He left after the inning.

Chicago relievers stopped Texas on three hits the rest of the way. Roberto Hernandez, with a 0.00 ERA through 11⅔ innings, worked around two leadoff walks in the ninth for his fifth save.

Royals 5, Yankees 2 Joe Vitiello hit Kansas City's first home run in 87 innings, helping the Royals beat visiting New York. Vitiello also doubled and drove in three runs.

The Royals were held hitless by Jimmy Key (1-3) until Vitiello homered in the fourth.

Indians 9, Orioles 8 Albert Belle and Manny Ramirez each hit three-run homers as Cleveland won its fifth straight despite nearly blowing a five-run lead.

The Indians, winners of 10 of their last 11 games, sent Baltimore to its sixth consecutive loss, and ninth straight at Jacobs Field.

Belle's homer gave Cleveland a 9-4 lead and finished Mike Mussina. The nine runs were the most Mussina has ever allowed.

■ Budig Summons Belle

Gene Budig, president of the American league, announced an investigation Tuesday into the latest incident involving Albert Belle and summoned the Cleveland star to an investigatory meeting at his office on Wednesday.

Budig acknowledged that no complaint has been lodged over the incident, in which a photographer was hit by a baseball thrown by Belle. But he said the league thought "the incident is serious enough to warrant further investigation."

Baseball officials are also checking to determine whether Belle has been adhering to his agreement to receive regular counseling.

Two officials said the agreement to accept counseling was part of the aftermath of the incident at last year's World Series in which Belle cursed a television reporter. *(NYT)*

Paul h. Buck/Agence France-Presse

White Sox catcher Chad Kreuter crashing into a fan while chasing a Rangers' pop foul.

• A $99.99 burger named after Belle has been withdrawn after the Cleveland Indians' player phoned the restaurant in the suburb of Brecksville to complain.

Eddie Cerino, the owner, said the Albert Belle Greedy Burger was meant to poke fun at Belle's reported rejection of a big Indian offer.

The menu described the 7-ounce burger as having every topping, "which still isn't enough," and added the warning: "No substitutions for loyalty to the fans or the City of Cleveland." *(AP)*

Alou's Pinch Homer For Expos Beats Cards

The Associated Press

Moises Alou hit a pinch-hit homer in the ninth to give the Montreal Expos their fifth successive victory, 12-11, over the St. Louis Cardinals.

Alou, who was kept out of the starting lineup Tuesday night for the second straight

NL Roundup

game because of a hamstring injury, connected on an 0-2 pitch from T.J. Mathews, driving the ball over the left-field wall for his fifth home run.

It was his first at-bat as a pinch hitter since 1994.

"Hopefully that will be my first and last of the year," he said.

Felipe Alou wasn't around to see his son's game-winning shot. He had been ejected for objecting when Kirk Reuter, the Expos' starting pitcher, was ejected in the fourth after a brushback pitch that caused both benches to empty.

In the third, Cardinals pitcher Todd Stottlemyre hit Shane Andrews with a pitch, one batter after a three-run homer by Rondell White made it 6-2. That prompted plate umpire Tom Hallion to issue a warning to both teams.

Dodgers 3, Braves 2 In Atlanta, Mike Piazza hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning off Brad Clontz as the Dodgers ended a four-game losing streak. Piazza, who had homered only once in 86 at-bats this season, connected after Greg McMichael walked Brett Butler and gave up a single to Chad Fonville. Piazza hit 32 homers last season.

Phillies 6, Pirates 2 Kevin Stocker's two-run single highlighted a three-run sixth inning in Philadelphia.

Stocker, hitting only .043 two weeks ago, is 7 for 17 (.412) in his last six starts and has reached base in 18 of his

is also the only regular National League shortstop not to have made an error this season.

Padres 7, Marlins 2 In Miami, Sean Bergman pitched seven strong innings and backup catcher Brian Johnson drove in three runs for shorthanded San Diego.

The Padres won their third in a row despite playing without the injured Tony Gwynn and Wally Joyner, the league's top two hitters, and the reserve first baseman Scott Livingstone, who left the team to be with his expectant wife.

Rockies 4, Cubs 3 Dante Bichette singled home the go-ahead run in the fifth inning as visiting Colorado won its third straight and completed a 4-1 road trip to New York and Wrigley Field.

Astros 8, Giants 4 In San Francisco, Jeff Bagwell hit a two-run double and Derrick May added a two-run single as Houston scored seven times in the third.

Mets 8, Reds 6 Chris Jones hit a two-run homer in the 10th as the Mets, playing in New York, won consecutive games for the first time this season. Jones, who entered the game as a defensive replacement, followed Rey Ordonez's one-out single by hitting a 1-1 pitch from Jeff Shaw over the wall in left field for his first homer.

Chris Wilkins/Agence France-Presse

Rockies' batter Andres Galarraga and Cubs catcher Scott Servais, right, watching a sacrifice fly head for center field.

Ted Mathis/Agence France-Presse

Michael Jordan saluting a Bulls' teammate during Chicago's final game of the season against the Washington Bullets.

NBA Postseason Is Also the Free-Agency Preseason

By Mark Heisler
Los Angeles Times Service

Shaquille O'Neal to the Los Angeles Lakers? Michael Jordan to the New York Knicks? Dennis Rodman to Las Vegas?

The National Basketball Association faces a cataclysmic realignment and the impending playoffs will go a long way toward deciding who's happy and who's sad, who's leaving and who gets left.

In this year of the free agent, woe to the team that is upset early, loses its glow and finds itself unable to sign the players it had hoped for, or keep the ones it needs.

The Chicago Bulls, favorites to win it all, depend on Jordan, Rodman and Coach Phil Jackson, whose contracts end July 1, as do those of Magic Johnson, Reggie Miller and Gary Payton, to name a few.

With Rodman the Bulls face myriad possibilities. As a San Antonio Spur in 1993, when Madonna was attending games to cheer for him, he hip-checked John Stockton and was suspended during a first-round upset loss. Last year he got himself suspended during a third-round upset loss. Traded to Chicago, he lulled everyone to sleep with good behavior before head-butting a referee. Bull fans are entitled to be edgy.

A look at the playoff series, in the Eastern Conference:

No. 1 Chicago vs. No. 8 Heat The Bulls are clearly the class of the league, but did they burn themselves out in that drive to 70 victories? Scottie Pippen admits he would have rested sooner otherwise. On Feb. 20, Pippen was averaging 22 points and shooting 49 percent. Since then, banged up and limping, he has averaged 16 points, shooting 40 percent, with only five 20-point games.

The Heat stumbled down the stretch, but edged out the Charlotte Hornets. Coach Pat Riley is overmatched but has a history of firing up teams. Look for Riley's guys to do anything they can to upset Rodman.

No. 2 Orlando vs. No. 7 Detroit Detroit is a tough opponent, but, as one general managers noted, you're lost without a hulk to play against O'Neal. Coach Doug Collins starts Mark West, two inches smaller than Shaq, 60 pounds lighter and 11 years older. This is only the third postseason appearance for the Magic, which is 3-4 in first-round play. Magic has the talent but experience counts now. Even so, the Detroit is over its head.

No. 3 Indiana vs. No. 6 Atlanta The Pacers are vulnerable with Miller out, but the Hawks were indiscreet enough to say they wanted to play them. "I guess so," said a Pacer official. "The alternative was Orlando."

Atlanta's coach, Lenny Wilkens, has a matchup problem with 6-foot 10-inch Christian Laettner facing 7-foot-4 Rik Smits and the huge Pacer front line: 6-11 Dale Davis, 6-10 Derrick McKey and 6-9 Antonio Davis.

No. 4 Cleveland vs. No. 5 New York It's hard to picture a team that starts Danny Ferry, Chris Mills, Michael Cage, Bobby Phills and Terrell Brandon in the playoffs, let alone with home-court advantage, but coach, Mike Fratello, pulled off his annual miracle.

The Knicks, who ripped Coach Don Nelson, returned to form under Jeff Van Gundy, who started 11-6 but his honeymoon ran out in a 2-4 finish. With the Knicks, the best fights are internal. After a loss to Seattle, Patrick Ewing said they were a better title hope than the SuperSonics. Charles Oakley replied, "We talk a lot, but talk is cheap."

In the Western Conference series:

No. 1 Seattle vs. No. 8 Sacramento At least, after two consecutive first-round upsets, overconfidence is no longer a problem for the SuperSonics. Maturity is. While everyone else was on cruise control Sunday, Shawn Kemp threw a punch and got himself suspended for a game.

The Kings' coach, Garry St. Jean, saved his job with a 9-5 finish, starting 7-footers Duane Causwell and Olden Polynice.

No. 2 San Antonio vs. No. 7 Suns The Suns keep telling themselves they haven't seen whole team on the floor all season. If they can keep Hot Rod Williams sound they will still have a creaky 33-year-old against David Robinson. The Suns have enough firepower, but something good had better happen fast.

No. 3 Utah vs. No. 6 Portland The Jazz slipped from 60 victories to 55. The Trail Blazers caught fire. So, this is everyone's upset special. The Trail Blazers were 26-34 when embattled Coach P.J. Carlesimo negotiated a truce with Rod Strickland, started rookie Arvidas Sabonis and finished 18-4. Carlesimo has the bodies — Sabonis, Chris Dudley and Buck Williams — to throw against Karl Malone, but the Jazz has its wise old backcourt, Stockton and Jeff Hornacek.

No. 4 L.A. Lakers vs. No. 5 Houston The most ballyhooed first-round series it's also the hardest to predict. What did the Lakers' weeks of turmoil do to them? What does the return of Clyde Drexler, Mario Elie and Sam Cassell mean to the Rockets?

Rockets' coach, Rudy Tomjanovich, baits opponents into double-teaming Olajuwon to get open three-pointers for other Rockets. The Lakers' coach, Del Harris, would like to play Olajuwon one-on-one..

DENNIS THE MENACE

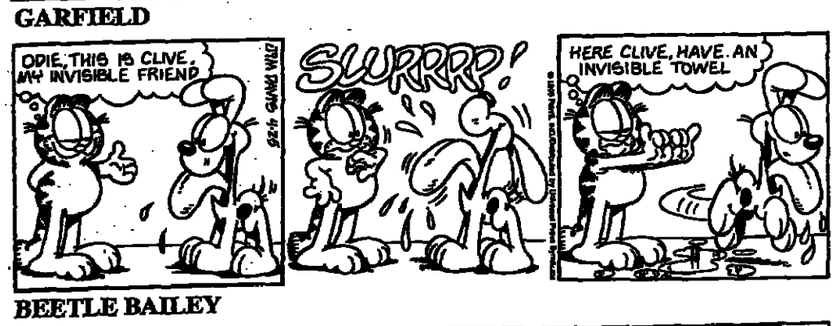
"...BECAUSE I DON'T *TRUST* YOU WITH IT, THAT'S WHY."

"SEE? I CAN'T EVEN TRUST *MYSELF!*"

PEANUTS

CALVIN AND HOBBES

GARFIELD



WIZARD of ID

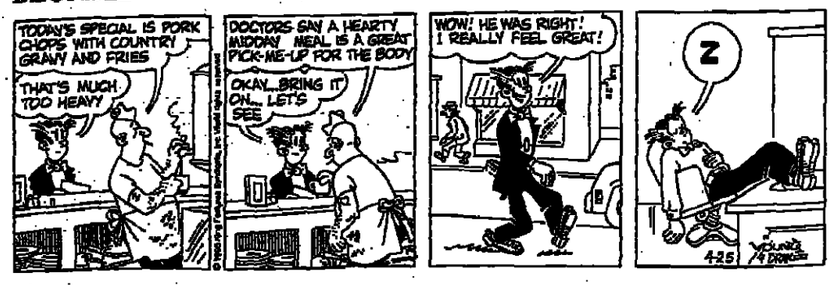
BEETLE BAILEY

THE FAR SIDE

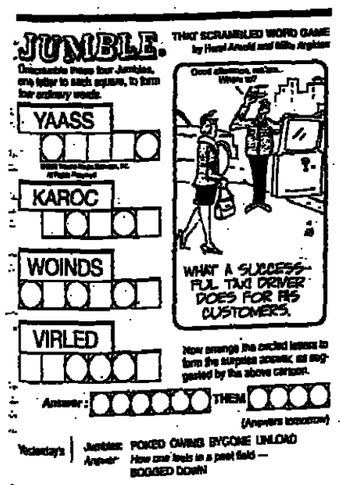
"It's Bob, all right ... but look at those vacuous eyes, that stupid grin on his face — he's been domesticated, I tell you."

DOONESBURY

BLONDIE



JUMBLE



Yesterday's Jumbles: POKED OWING BYGONE UNLOAD
Answer: How one feels in a pest field — BOGGED DOWN

To our readers in Greece
It's never been easier to subscribe. For more information, please call:
(1) 685 1525/(1) 685 2282

ART BUCHWALD

Just for the Pain

WASHINGTON — I happened to be in Boston last week when it held the 100th anniversary of the marathon, the greatest long-distance race in the country. (No mail from New York, please.)

The streets were jammed with people wearing sweatsuits and running shoes. Everyone looked fit, proud and smug. I envied their stamina and their weight.

Buchwald

There was not an ounce of fat on any of them.

I stopped to speak to one of the participants who was kicking a tree to get the blood circulating in his ankles.

"You must be very excited," I said.

He laughed. "If I had my choice of running 26 miles or seeing a good movie, I'd go to the movie."

□

"Then why do you run in the marathon?"

"It's either this or cleaning up the basement. Frankly, I took up running to get out of the house."

"You must feel better for having done it."

"I should, except for the pain. Nobody knows about the pain when they see a runner because he or she always looks wonderful."

"None of us nonrunners knows the pain," I assured him.

"When we are wearing their running shoes, Nike and Reebok make us promise never to let anyone see us cry. That's why many runners wear towels over their faces to hide the pain."

"But there must be more to running than pain," I said.

"Of course, there is. People who run live three years longer than people who don't."

"That sounds like it is all worthwhile."

□

"It would be if someone knew what to do with the extra three years. The memory doesn't get any better, and you still have the pain. Nobody in your family wants to hear how you won the marathon and how you still have the pain. So, quite honestly, adding three more years to your life is a bore. Besides, you can be the fittest person in the world after running for 30 years and then lose it all eating airline food on one flight to Atlanta."

"It's amazing. If I hadn't talked to you I would have thought marathon winners had it made."

"That's the impression we try to convey to the public. Marathon enthusiasts race against themselves. It doesn't matter who wins — we know it's always going to be a runner from Kenya — but by finishing we have proved once again that God designed man so that he could pound the Earth wearing Adidas running shoes."

"Are you in pain now?"

"No, only when I laugh."

Literature and Opera

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Two new operas, each based on a classic of American literature, are in the works. The Metropolitan Opera in New York has commissioned John Harbison to write "The Great Gatsby," based on the F. Scott Fitzgerald novel. The San Francisco Opera has commissioned André Previn to write "A Streetcar Named Desire," based on the Tennessee Williams play.

Dutch Re-create Anti-Nazi Exhibition of 1936

By Alan Riding
New York Times Service

AMSTERDAM — As part of the Nazis' plan to make the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin a showcase of their ideological and racial superiority, Josef Goebbels, the regime's propaganda chief, excluded Jews, leftists and purveyors of "degenerate" art from an Art Olympiad organized to coincide with the games.

In response, a group of Dutch artists and intellectuals challenged the Nazis by calling for a boycott of the event, which had accompanied the summer Olympic games since 1912 and in which painters, architects, writers and musicians were also awarded medals for excellence.

The Dutch group organized a counterexhibition in Amsterdam, "The Olympics Under Dictatorship," which brought together 300 works by 150 artists from half a dozen countries. The show also included documentation, cartoons, photographs and drawings illustrating Nazi repression and manipulation of education, science, theater, literature, film and music.

Now, 60 years after that exhibition and during another Olympic year, the Amsterdam Municipal Archives are presenting a reconstruction of part of "The Olympics Under Dictatorship" to pay tribute to artists who dared speak out when most European governments were still eager to appease Hitler. The show runs here through May 19 and will be on display at the Sports Museum in Berlin in July to coincide with the Summer Games in Atlanta.

The organizers of the 1936 show did not disguise their disgust at the Nazis' attempt to hijack culture. The initials of the show's name in Dutch, "De Olympiade Onder Dictatuur," or DOOD spell "death" in Dutch. The show's poster, which was pasted up around Amsterdam, portrayed a shot-putter standing in a stadium, his arms trapped by a swastika.

"Let this exhibition become a world manifestation of the will of all bearers of culture that their knowledge and their art may remain free, a blessing to civilization and humanity," the organizers of the show wrote. And they added: "It is not concerned with politics. It is directed solely against the violation of culture."

Not all the works displayed in 1936 could be found. A good number were destroyed or disappeared during World War II.

Several of the original exhibitors also died in German death camps, among them Otto Freundlich and Chris Lebeau. A handful of them, though, are still alive, among them Eva Besnyo, the Hungarian photographer; Carel Weight, the British painter; Henri Jannot, the French painter, and Boris Taslitsky, a Paris-based artist who survived his imprisonment in Buchenwald. All sent works to the reconstruction.

Making this exhibition doubly interesting are recently discovered documents showing that in response to intense pressure from German diplomats, the Dutch authorities insisted on the removal of 19 works of art from the 1936 show on the ground that they were insulting to Hitler. Further, when the show later traveled to Rotterdam, it was closed by the Dutch police after only a few days.

By displaying Dutch police reports addressed to Willem de Vlugt, who was the mayor of Amsterdam, the new exhibition also captures the intense social unrest gripping the Netherlands at the time, with the conservative government of the day seemingly more concerned about leftist agitation among disgruntled unemployed workers than about the growing threat posed by Nazi Germany.

Because many artists were leftists and even members of the Communist Party, the government viewed them as potential troublemakers, not least when they attacked the dictatorships in Italy and Germany, regimes with which the Netherlands preferred to maintain cordial relations. Even before cracking down on "The Olympics Under Dictatorship," de Vlugt censored movies, plays and exhibitions he deemed "offensive."

Gemeentearchief Amsterdam

1936 shot-putter in a swastika: "Dood" is "death" in Dutch.

Speaking at the inauguration of the new exhibition in March, the German ambassador to The Hague, Wilhelm Haas, noted that by 1936 Dutch public opinion already viewed the Nazis with repugnance. "Your politicians, however, were not the only ones in Europe who completely underestimated the nature and the danger of National Socialist policies," Haas said. "By meeting German demands, they thought the national sovereignty of a neutral nation could be safeguarded." And he added, "Apparently, they yielded more readily to German pressure when criticism of Germany came from the left."

Still, even though Amsterdam's municipal authorities refused to allow the show to be held in public buildings and some of the most virulently anti-Nazi works were removed, when "The Olympics Under Dictatorship" opened on Aug. 1, 1936, it contained many works and documents that the German consul in Amsterdam, A.E. Jung, described as "sheer provocation" against Germany.

The organizers of the exhibition invited artists from the Netherlands and neighboring countries as well as many German artists who had already fled the Nazi regime to contribute works. Among foreign exhibitors were Max Ernst, Jacques Lipchitz, Marcel Gromaire, Georges Vantongerloo, Fernand Léger, Ossip Zadkine and Lucien Pissarro, although many artists were less well known.

With the notable exception of drawings and cartoons in the documentation section of the show, many works were not explicitly political, such as Robert Capa's photographs of Holy Week celebrations in Seville and a landscape by Pissarro, although the artists were making a political statement simply by participating in the 1936 exhibition.

Among the 127 works by 73 artists in the reconstruction, however, some directly attack the Nazis or denounce police repression and torture, while a good many mirror the anxiety felt by artists about Europe's deepening nightmare. "The Hordes," by Ernst, for instance, shows frightened brown figures against a pale blue background.

While the 1996 show throws light on both government appeasement and artistic courage in 1936, the purpose of the reconstruction is also to remind viewers of the continuing relevancy of the issues raised 60 years ago. "It makes people ask what they would do in a similar situation," Andre Hirs, an official at the Amsterdam Municipal Archives, noted. "And let's face it, there are still plenty of threats to freedom around the world today."

POSTCARD

$574,000 Humidor? Yes, the Kennedy Auction

By Paula Span and Judd Tully
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — The leather-covered rocking horse that Caroline Kennedy rode in the White House nursery sold for $85,000.

A tan leather Stetson hatbox bearing a red tag that read "The President" sold for $31,625 — more than 100 times the auction house's estimate of its worth.

And a polished walnut humidor that the comic Milton Berle gave JFK in 1961 — "Good Health-Good Smoking," it was inscribed — was the highest-selling item. The editor and publisher of Cigar Aficionado will take it home for $574,000.

This is Camelot's garage sale. More than 5,500 objects belonging to the late Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis — everything from a striking John Singer Sargent watercolor that hung in her New York living room (sale price: $222,500) to a faded yellow sofa (estimated value: $500 to $800) to her metallic-green 1992 BMW (estimate: $18,000 to $22,000) — are to be auctioned to the highest bidders over four frenetic days at Sotheby's.

One woman from Boston, waiting to see everything arrayed Tuesday at the pre-auction exhibit, grew teary at the prospect. "This may be the punctuation mark to it all," she said, "the absolute end, everything being scattered."

Sotheby's official estimate was that when the gavel came down after the final bid Friday afternoon, the sale would have realized $3.3 million to $4.6 million. But Tuesday night's first session alone tallied close to $4.5 million, with astronomical prices for one of JFK's oak rocking chairs ($442,500), the baby grand piano from Onassis's Fifth Avenue apartment ($167,500) and her monogrammed silver tape measure from Tiffany ($48,875).

"It's incredible," said Sotheby's president, Diana Brooks, who presided at Tuesday night's auction. "It just shows you how people feel about history."

Sotheby's has conducted other celebrity estate sales. When it sold off the Duchess of Windsor's jewels in 1987, their estimated value was $5 million to $7 million — and the final tally topped $50 million.

Yet neither that auction nor other legendary sales have generated the attention or posed the logistical challenges of this one.

Sotheby's senior vice president, Diana Phillips, summed it up: Onassis "was a world figure and this is a world event."

PEOPLE

MICHELIN three-star chef Joël Robuchon has announced that he will be leaving the kitchens of the Paris restaurant that bears his name on July 5. His successor is Alain Ducasse, currently the Michelin three-star chef at restaurant Louis XV in the Hôtel de Paris in Monte Carlo. Robuchon, 51, will remain active in the world of cuisine, with a daily television show on elementary cooking, cookbooks, and consulting contracts for restaurants, supermarket chains and food processors. The restaurant, at 59 Avenue Raymond Poincaré in Paris's 16th arrondissement, will reopen Aug. 12 as Restaurant Alain Ducasse. Ducasse, 39, will remain chef at the Louis XV as well as owner of his hotel-restaurant Bastide de Moustiers in Provence, making him the first "six-star" chef ever.

□

Robert Duvall may soon be tangoing across the silver screen, but for now he's cutting the rug in dance class. The actor danced in Virginia with Shenandoah University students and the Argentine dance instructor Nestor Ray, who has been staying at Duvall's farm in nearby Middleburg. Duvall met the instructor in Buenos Aires while filming a TV movie on the capture of the Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann. "Is there a secret to the tango? I don't know," Duvall said. "It's never ending, it's complex yet simple and can go on forever." Duvall said he has a film in the works in which the tango is a central element.

□

Roberto Carlos, Brazil's "king" of romantic music, has married his long-time sweetheart Maria Rita Simoes, a Rio newspaper reported. The wedding, attended only by a few friends and immediate family, reportedly took place April 15 but was revealed only this week by a society columnist of the daily O Globo. It was the first wedding for the 55-year-old singer. Carlos reportedly met his bride 20 years ago, while on tour in the interior city of Campos do Jordao. Her family then opposed the union, but the two got together again five years ago, the paper said.

□

Former Governor L. Douglas Wilder of Virginia has settled the $5 million suit he filed after an airport security guard lunged at him and tried to choke him. Terms of the settlement were not disclosed. The March 1995 incident began when Wilder's suspenders tripped a metal detector at North Carolina's Raleigh-Durham International Airport. A guard detained him, then lectured him. When Wilder tried to read the guard's name tag, the guard grabbed him. The airport fired the guard, but Wilder sued.

□

Three days after being reported missing, the actress Margot Kidder was discovered dazed in a back yard, and one witness said it appeared her two front teeth had been knocked out. Kidder, 47, was found in the Los Angeles suburb of Glendale and taken to a hospital for observation. The Canadian-born actress, who played Lois Lane in the "Superman" movies but more recently has battled health problems, appeared "frightened and paranoid" and was in "obvious mental distress," Sergeant Rick Young of the Glendale police said. Kidder was last seen at Los Angeles International Airport on Saturday night, waiting for a flight to Phoenix. But she didn't get on the flight and her publicist reported her missing that night to Burbank police.

The Associated Press

It takes two — Robert Duvall, right, and Nestor Ray.

□

The director Spike Lee has just finished shooting a movie on the October "Million Man March," a $2.4 million production entirely financed by black Americans, according to the producer of the movie, Reuben Cannon. The film focuses on the lives of 20 participants who made their way to Washington to discover they share the same community and destiny despite their different backgrounds, he said.

□

Christian Slater and his longtime girlfriend have settled their differences. Nina Huang had claimed in her April 1995 palimony suit that she lived with the actor on and off since 1990 and had an verbal agreement that, in the event of a breakup, she would receive half his earnings. Slater filed a cross-complaint last October seeking $65,000 he claimed was missing from a bank account accessible by Huang. Both claims were settled for an undisclosed amount in March. Slater's lawyer Ronald Anteau said.

WEATHER

Europe

	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	W	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low C/F	W
Algarve	19/66	12/53	pc	19/66	12/53	s
Amsterdam	13/55	11/52	pc	14/57	7/44	c
Ankara	13/55	0/32	c	18/64	6/43	pc
Athens	21/70	11/52	pc	22/71	13/55	s
Barcelona	21/70	12/53	pc	19/66	12/53	pc
Belgrade	24/75	13/55	c	23/73	13/55	s
Berlin	14/57	7/44	pc	15/59	6/43	pc
Brussels	13/55	5/41	r	15/59	5/41	pc
Budapest	23/73	13/55	t	22/71	11/52	pc
Copenhagen	14/57	4/39	pc	11/52	3/37	c
Costa Del Sol	21/70	13/55	pc	20/68	13/55	s
Dublin	11/52	4/39	s	11/52	2/35	r
Edinburgh	11/52	5/41	r	8/46	4/39	r
Florence	18/64	13/55	r	24/75	12/53	pc
Frankfurt	18/66	7/44	pc	18/61	5/41	c
Geneva	18/64	8/46	c	18/64	8/46	pc
Helsinki	12/53	2/35	pc	9/48	1/34	pc
Istanbul	17/62	8/46	pc	19/66	11/52	pc
Las Palmas	21/70	16/61	pc	22/71	16/64	s
Lisbon	17/62	11/52	pc	18/64	12/53	s
London	12/53	5/41	sh	13/55	4/39	r
Madrid	16/64	8/43	pc	16/64	5/41	s
Milan	21/70	13/55	r	23/73	12/53	pc
Moscow	24/75	10/50	pc	18/61	6/43	s
Munich	17/62	7/44	c	17/62	7/44	pc
Nice	18/64	13/55	sh	20/68	11/52	pc
Oslo	13/55	5/41	r	13/55	1/34	c
Mallorca	19/66	13/55	pc	17/62	12/53	pc
Paris	14/57	7/44	pc	16/61	6/43	c
Prague	22/71	8/46	pc	18/64	8/46	pc
Reykjavik	8/43	3/37	c	8/46	2/35	pc
Rome	21/70	10/50	sh	23/73	12/53	pc
St. Petersburg	13/55	1/34	pc	11/52	1/34	pc
Stockholm	12/53	2/35	r	10/50	2/35	pc
Strasbourg	16/66	7/44	c	19/66	7/44	pc
Tallinn	9/48	2/35	pc	8/46	2/35	pc
Venice	19/66	13/55	sh	21/70	13/55	pc
Vienna	20/68	11/52	sh	18/64	9/48	pc
Warsaw	25/73	11/52	sh	19/64	7/44	pc
Zurich	18/66	9/48	c	19/66	8/46	pc

Oceania

Auckland	21/70	11/52	pc	21/70	14/57	pc
Sydney	24/75	15/59	s	24/75	17/62	pc

Forecast for Friday through Sunday, as provided by AccuWeather.

North America
Warm and breezy on Friday in New York City and Washington, D.C., with scattered showers. Turning cooler and mainly dry over the weekend. Chilly in Toronto with a couple of showers Friday and maybe flurries Saturday. Rain by Sunday in Chicago. Hot and dry in Los Angeles.

Europe
Mainly dry and mild through the weekend in London, Paris and Amsterdam, as well as in Berlin and Hamburg. Showers will reach from Ireland and Scotland to Scandinavia. Spain and Portugal will also have scattered showers, while steadier rain soaks much of Italy.

Asia
Warm and dry through the weekend in Japan. Showers and thunderstorms will dampen Beijing and will spread east to Shanghai and the Koreas by Sunday. Hong Kong will be warm and muggy with little rain. Hot and humid in Bangkok and Singapore with a couple of thunderstorms.

Middle East

	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	W	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low C/F	W
Abu Dhabi	35/97	26/82	s	37/99	27/80	pc
Beirut	16/61	13/55	pc	19/66	13/55	c
Cairo	18/64	8/46	pc	36/70	13/55	s
Damascus	16/61	4/39	pc	18/64	6/43	s
Jerusalem	17/62	8/46	pc	18/64	11/52	s
Luxor	38/82	6/43	s	34/93	14/57	s
Riyadh	36/97	22/71	pc	37/99	20/68	s

Africa

	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	W	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low C/F	W
Algiers	17/62	14/57	r	17/62	13/53	r
Cape Town	23/73	11/52	s	27/80	15/61	s
Casablanca	18/64	9/48	pc	23/73	13/55	s
Harare	17/62	9/48	c	21/70	9/48	pc
Lagos	32/89	25/77	pc	32/89	25/79	pc
Nairobi	22/71	13/55	c	24/75	14/57	r
Tunis	24/75	16/61	t	20/68	14/57	r

Asia

	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	W	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low C/F	W
Bangkok	37/98	25/79	pc	34/93	26/79	pc
Beijing	24/75	8/48	s	23/73	11/52	s
Hong Kong	29/79	17/62	pc	24/75	21/70	pc
Manila	33/91	23/73	pc	33/91	23/73	pc
New Delhi	40/104	24/75	s	45/113	28/79	s
Seoul	22/71	10/50	s	19/66	10/50	pc
Shanghai	23/71	12/53	s	23/73	13/55	pc
Singapore	32/89	25/77	t	31/88	24/75	sh
Taipei	24/75	14/57	pc	28/79	17/62	s
Tokyo	21/70	8/46	s	21/70	8/46	s

Latin America

	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	W	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low C/F	W
Buenos Aires	19/66	12/53	sh	22/71	9/48	s
Caracas	30/86	19/66	pc	31/88	18/64	pc
Lima	23/73	18/64	s	24/75	19/66	pc
Mexico City	24/75	11/52	pc	25/77	11/52	pc
Rio de Janeiro	30/86	22/71	s	28/82	22/71	pc
Santiago	19/66	6/43	pc	20/68	7/44	s

North America

	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	W	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low C/F	W
Anchorage	9/48	3/37	sh	8/46	-1/31	pc
Atlanta	23/73	11/52	s	24/75	13/55	s
Boston	18/64	7/44	pc	17/62	5/45	pc
Chicago	18/64	5/46	pc	20/68	8/46	sh
Denver	28/84	9/48	s	23/73	5/41	s
Detroit	14/57	7/44	s	19/66	8/46	sh
Honolulu	30/89	20/68	pc	29/84	22/71	pc
Houston	29/84	18/64	s	28/82	19/61	pc
Los Angeles	29/84	16/61	s	32/89	17/62	s
Miami	29/84	19/66	t	28/82	22/71	pc
Minneapolis	17/62	7/44	pc	18/64	5/41	c
Montreal	8/43	-2/29	pc	13/55	3/37	pc
Nassau	27/80	23/73	pc	28/82	22/71	pc
New York	16/61	8/46	pc	19/66	8/46	pc
Phoenix	39/100	19/66	s	40/104	20/68	s
San Fran.	20/68	10/50	pc	24/75	11/52	s
Seattle	13/55	7/44	sh	14/57	6/46	c
Toronto	9/48	4/39	pc	14/57	6/43	c
Vancouver	10/50	5/40	sh	13/55	6/43	sh
Washington	18/64	10/50	s	20/68	10/50	pc

Legend: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice. W-Weather. All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 1996

With AT&T you can place calls to the U.S. (and to over 210 countries) quickly and easily. Just take your calling card, dial the AT&T Access Number for the country you're in, and you'll be connected to an English-speaking operator or voice prompt within seconds. You'll be home in no time. Fast, easy calling worldwide. That's Your True Choice.℠ AT&T.

EUROPE

Armenia*†	8014111
Austria*†††	022-903-011
Belgium*	0-800-100-10
Bosnia†	00-800-0010
Bulgaria◆	00-800-0010
Croatia◆	99-385-0111
Czech Republic*	00-42-800-101
Denmark	8001-0010
Finland*	9800-100-10
France	19-0011
Germany	0130-0010
Greece*	00-800-1311
Hungary*	000800-01111
Iceland*	800 9001
Ireland	1-800-550-000
Italy*	172-1011
Lithuania◆	80196
Luxembourg	0-800-0111
Macedonia, F.Y.R.†††	99-800-4288
Monaco*	19-0011
Netherlands*	06-022-9111
Norway	800-190-11
Poland†	00-0-800-111-1111
Portugal†	05017-1-288
Romania*	01-800-4288
Russia*†(Moscow)	155-5042
Slovak Rep.*†	00-42-000-101
Spain*	900-99-00-11
Sweden	020-795-611
Switzerland*	0-800-550011
Turkey*	00-800-12277
Ukraine†	80100-11
United Kingdom	0500-89-0011

MIDDLE EAST

Bahrain ■	800-001
Cyprus* ■	080-90010
Egypt* (Cairo)†	510-0200
Israel	177-100-2727
Jordan ■	18 800 000
Kuwait ■	800-288
Lebanon (Beirut)†† ■	426-801
Qatar ■	0800-811-77
Saudi Arabia ■	1-800-10
Syria	0-801
U. Arab Emirates* ■	800-121

AFRICA

Gabon*	800-001
Gambia*	00111
Ghana	0191
Ivory Coast*	00-111-11
Kenya†	0800-10
Liberia	797-797
Morocco ■	002-11-0011
Sierra Leone	1100
South Africa	0-800-99-0123
Zambia◆	00-899
Zimbabwe†	110-899

AMERICAS

Argentina◆	001-800-200-1111
Bolivia*	0-800-1112
Brazil	000-8010
Canada ■	1-800-225-5288
Chile	800-800-311
Colombia	980-11-0010
Costa Rica* ■	0-800-0-114-114
Ecuador*	999-119
El Salvador†††	800-1785
Guatemala†††	190
Mexico◇◇◇ ■	95-800-462-4240
Nicaragua◆	174
Panama ■*	109
Peru† ■	171
Venezuela* ■	800-11-120

AT&T Your True Choice

AT&T Access Numbers for countries in the Asia/Pacific region are listed daily in the Asian edition of the International Herald Tribune.

International calling not yet available from all countries or phones. Bold Land countries permit country to country calling between more than 80 countries. Collect calling is available to the U.S. only. Country to country rates consist of the cost of a call to the U.S. plus an additional charge based on the country you are calling. You can call the U.S. from all the countries listed above. *Public phones require deposit of coin or phone card for dial tone. Wait for second dial tone. †Outside Cities. ††Wait for 2nd. tone. †††Limited availability. ◆Collect calling only. ■Public phones require local coin payment during call. ◆Not available from public phones. ◇Wait for second dial tone. ◇◇◇When calling from public phones, use phones marked "AT&T". ■Calling available to most European countries. ■Country to country calls can only be placed in this country. ©1996 AT&T.